



WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

**CALIFORNIA SECTION 202
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS**

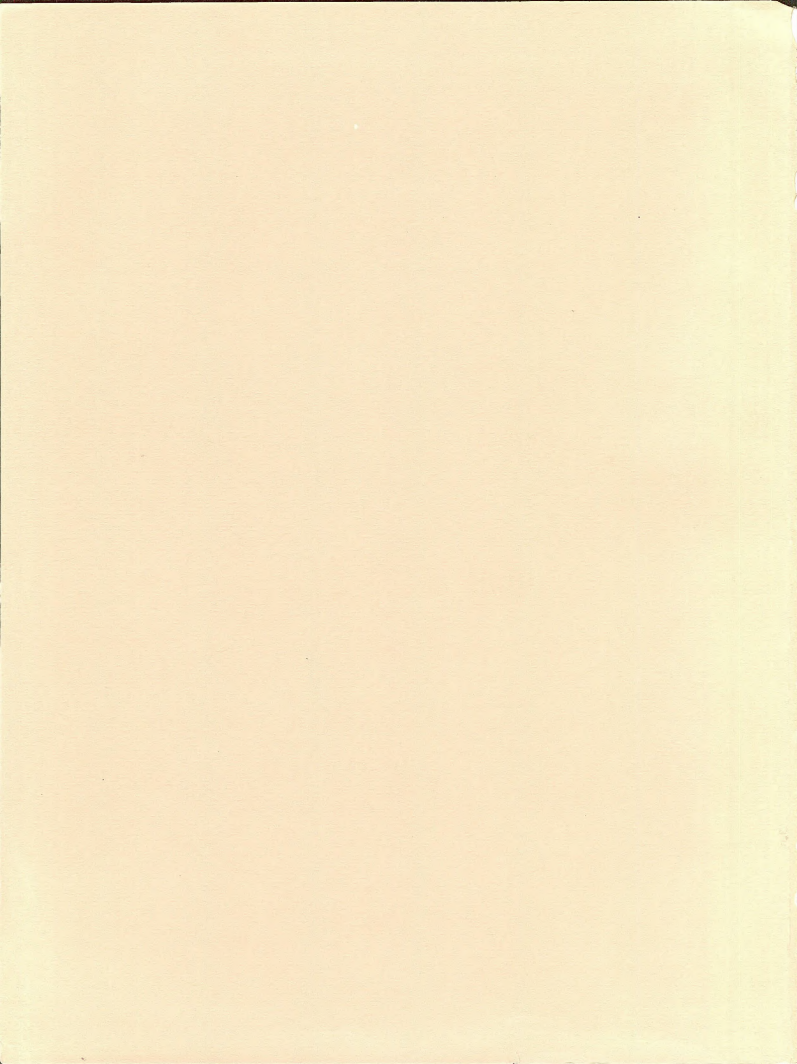
South Warner Contiguous WSA

Carson Iceberg WSA

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIORBUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA

1988





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA STATE OFFICE2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the South Warner Contiguous and Carson Iceberg Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). These two WSAs were included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas which addressed eight WSAs. All eight of the Section 202 WSAs are adjacent to existing U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas. Management of any of these WSAs is largely dependent upon management of the adjacent wilderness areas. Therefore, close coordination between the BLM and USFS was maintained throughout preparation of this EIS to ensure that the Forest Service's position is correctly reflected. The WSAs have been studied under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

The two Section 202 WSAs addressed in this document are recommended for wilderness designation and are included in this separate EIS to be forwarded to the President and Congress. The Forest Service does support wilderness management of these Section 202 WSAs as extensions of the existing Forest Service wilderness areas. Therefore, the BLM's recommendations reflect not only the analysis in this document but also the Forest Service's interest in these areas. The remaining six Section 202 WSAs were not recommended for wilderness designation. The State Director has the authority to release unsuitable Section 202 WSAs from wilderness study and return them to multiple use management. Those six Section 202 WSAs not recommended for wilderness designation are included in a separate EIS.

The South Warner Contiguous WSA is in the Susanville District and is recommended for partial Wilderness designation. The Carson Iceberg WSA is administered by the Carson City District, Nevada, and is recommended to be designated all wilderness. The EIS analyzes the impacts of designating or not designating the 5050 acres in these two Section 202 WSAs as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. All recommendations contained

herein are preliminary and subject to change during administrative review. This final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

For further information, contact:

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District Manager
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Carson City, Nevada 89706

Sincerely,



Ed Hastey
State Director

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR CALIFORNIA
SECTION 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

CA-020-708	SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA	4,500 Acres
NV-030-532	CARSON ICEBERG WSA	550 Acres

Prepared By

Bureau of Land Management
Susanville District Office, California
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Ed Hurley
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS
CALIFORNIA
SECTION 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Draft () Final (X) Environmental Impact Statement

1. Type of Action: Administrative () Legislative (X)

2. Abstract:

The Bureau of Land Management has analyzed the impacts and resource tradeoffs of the proposals for eight Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) throughout California. These WSAs encompass a total of 10,994 acres of public lands. This final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) contains the analysis for two of the eight WSAs, totalling 5050 acres, which have been recommended for either partial or all-wilderness designation for those lands. The six remaining WSAs are contained in a separate final EIS with the recommendation for non-wilderness designation.

3. Location of Action:

Susanville District

South Warner Contiguous WSA Partial Wilderness Modoc County

Carson City District (Nevada)

Carson Iceberg WSA All Wilderness Alpine County

4. For Further Information Contact:

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SUMMARY

The Susanville District, California, and the Carson City District, Nevada, have prepared an Environmental Impact Statement to determine the suitability of two Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This EIS assesses the environmental consequences of managing the Carson Iceberg and South Warner Contiguous WSAs as wilderness or non-wilderness. The South Warner Contiguous WSA is also analyzed under partial wilderness designation. The WSAs cover 5050 acres of public lands entirely within California and are adjacent to designated or recommended wilderness areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Both WSAs are being studied under the provisions of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

The two WSAs are being studied as amendments to the existing land use plans which include the Tuledad/Homecamp MFP and Alturas MFP in the Susanville District, California, and the Walker RMP in the Carson City District, Nevada.

Scoping by the public and within the BLM identified environmental issues for each WSA related to wilderness designation. The issues were then assessed to determine if they should be analyzed in detail in the EIS.

SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA (CA-020-708) 4,500 Acres

The South Warner Contiguous WSA contains 4,500 acres of public land. This Section 202 WSA is located in Modoc County within the Susanville District.

The Proposed Action for the South Warner Contiguous WSA is Partial Wilderness. Under this proposal 1,187 acres of WSA will be designated wilderness. This portion of the WSA will be managed in conjunction with the USFS South Warner Wilderness Area to maintain existing wilderness values. The remaining 3,313 acres would not be designated wilderness and would be managed for multiple use under the existing Tuledad/Homecamp MFP and the Alturas RMP. Two other alternatives were also considered. The All Wilderness Alternative would designate the entire 4,500 acres as wilderness. The No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would not designate any of the 4,500 acres as wilderness and the area would be managed for multiple use under the existing land use plans.

One issue was identified for detailed analysis during the scoping process--impacts on wilderness values. Six other issues were also assessed but not included for detailed analysis in the EIS. These issues included concerns relating to livestock grazing, wildlife, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, timber harvesting, and mineral resource development.

CARSON ICEBERG WSA (NV-030-532) 550 Acres

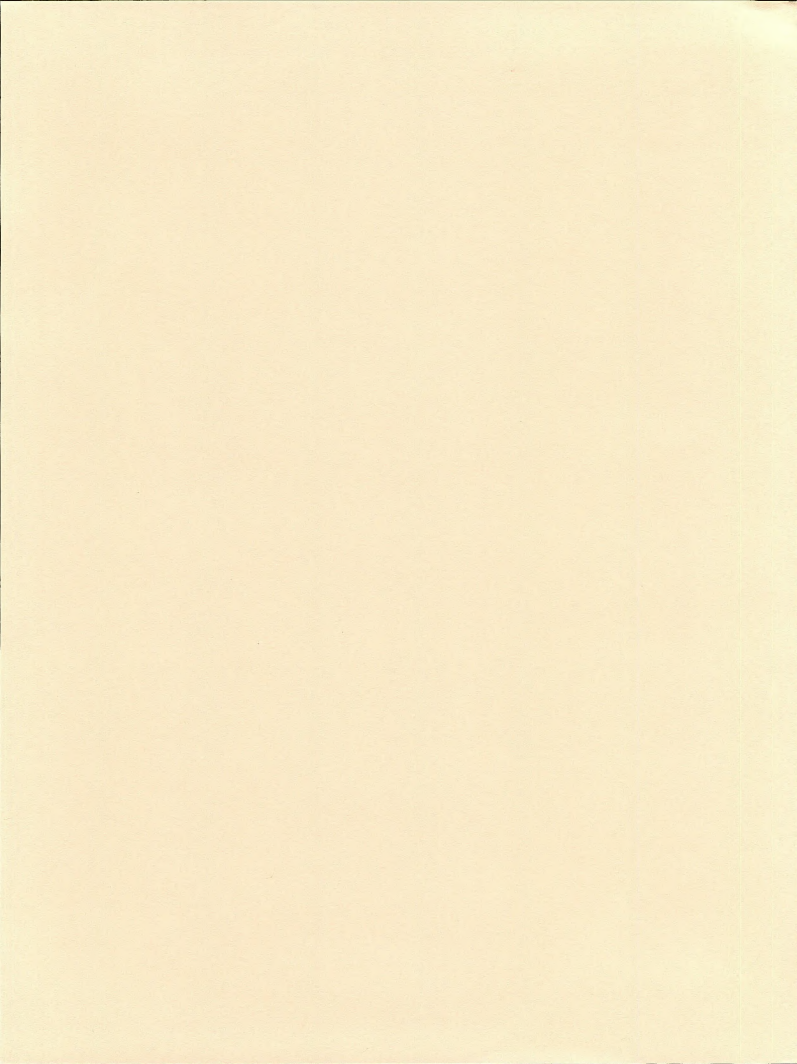
The Carson Iceberg WSA contains 550 acres of public land. This Section 202 WSA is located in Alpine County and is administered by the Carson City District, Nevada.

The Proposed Action for the Carson Iceberg WSA is All Wilderness. Under this proposal the entire 550 acres within the WSA will be designated wilderness. The WSA will be managed in conjunction with the adjacent USFS Carson Iceberg Wilderness Area to maintain the area's wilderness values. One alternative was also considered--a No Wilderness/No Action Alternative in which none of the 550 acres within the WSA would be designated wilderness. The WSA would be managed for multiple use under the existing Walker RMP.

One issue was identified for detailed analysis during the scoping process--impacts on wilderness values. Three other issues were also assessed but not included for detailed analysis in the EIS. These issues included concerns relating to water quality, fisheries, and mineral/energy resource development.



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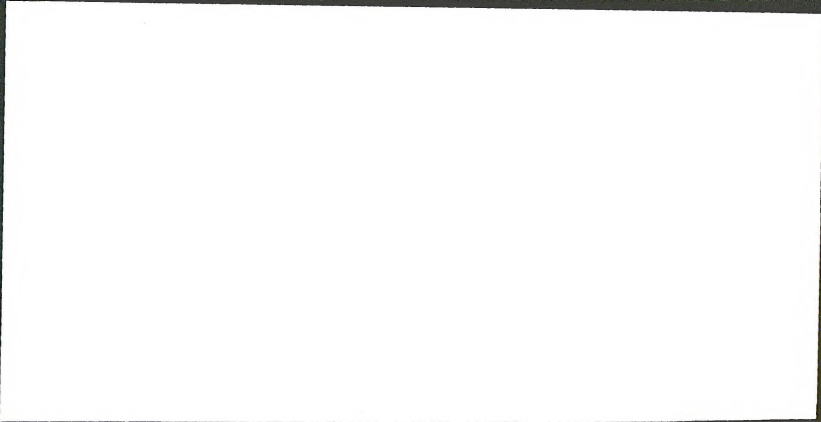


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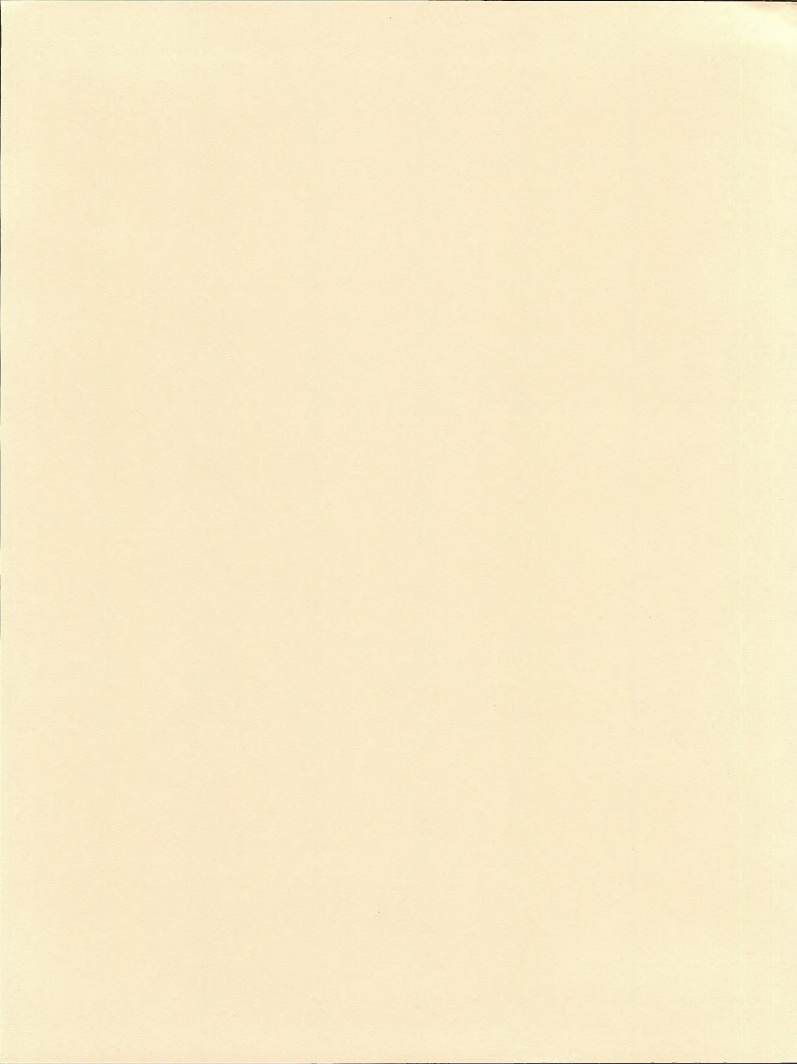
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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL LOCATION

This Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses two Section 202 wilderness study areas (WSAs) located entirely within California in the Susanville District, California, and the Carson City District, Nevada, of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These wilderness study areas are studied under the provisions of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The BLM's Wilderness Inventory Handbook defines these areas as:

Roadless areas of less than 5,000 acres of contiguous public lands where any one of the following apply:

- 1) They are contiguous with lands managed by another agency which have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values, or
- 2) The public has indicated strong support for study of a particular area of less than 5,000 acres and it is demonstrated that it is clearly and obviously of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management, or
- 3) They are contiguous with an area of less than 5,000 acres of other Federal lands administered by an agency with authority to study and preserve wilderness lands, and the combined total is 5,000 acres or more.

The WSAs in this EIS are adjacent to designated or recommended wilderness areas managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The WSAs addressed in this EIS include:

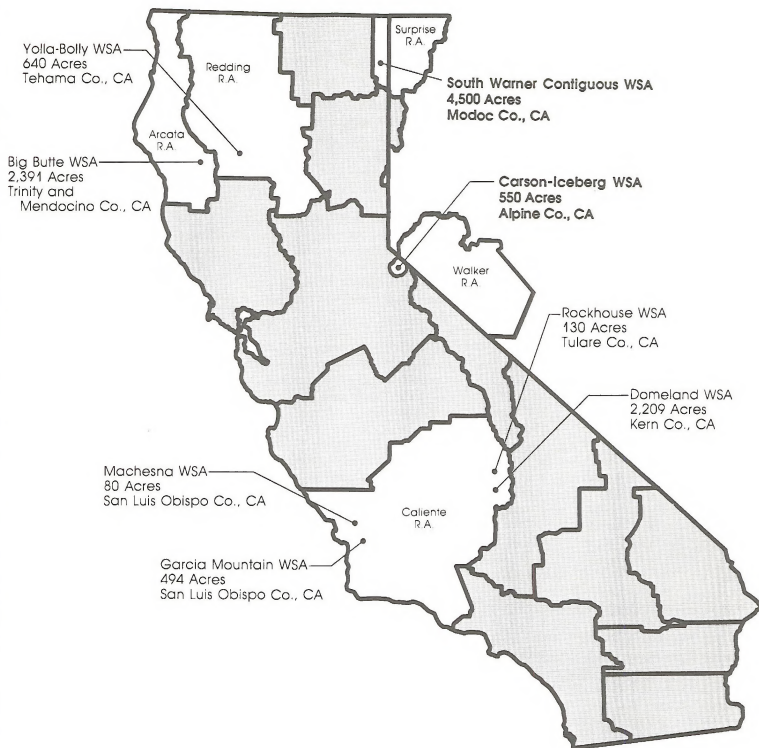
Susanville District

CA-020-708 South Warner Contiguous WSA 4,500 Ac. Modoc County

Carson City District (Nevada)

NV-030-532 Carson Iceberg WSA 550 Ac. Alpine County

LOCATION MAP



BLM WILDERNESS STUDY for EIGHT SECTION 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIONS

The purpose of the Proposed Actions for the WSAs in this study is to set forth a pattern of management actions for each of the two WSAs.

In 1978, BLM began a wilderness inventory to identify lands having wilderness characteristics. Lands found to have these characteristics, as defined by the Congress in the Wilderness Act, were designated as Wilderness Study Areas to undergo further review as required by Section 603 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. The wilderness characteristics are: size, naturalness, solitude, and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. BLM completed its inventories by 1980 with approximately 25 million acres in the 11 western states identified for study as WSAs. In California, about 6.3 million acres were identified.

Certain lands identified for study were less than the minimum 5,000 acres in size. Because those areas would possess all the wilderness characteristics when included with contiguous Forest Service or other agency lands, they were considered for wilderness under the discretionary wilderness study authority provided by Section 202 of FLPMA. These areas were referred to as "Section 202 WSAs."

The Section 202 WSAs were later dropped from consideration by Secretary Watt in December 1982. Analysis of these areas was deleted from the Environmental Impact Statements being prepared at that time. In response to a ruling in regard to the legality of Secretary Watt's decision, however, Secretary Donald P. Hodel directed BLM to reconsider the Section 202 WSAs.

FORMAT OF THE EIS

This Section 202 Wilderness Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is comprised of three primary sections. The introduction provides an overview of the study process as it relates to the two Section 202 WSAs being studied. Following the introduction, the EIS includes detailed discussions of the issues; the Proposed Action and alternative(s); affected environment; and environmental consequences for each individual WSA. The final section relates to all the WSAs and deals with the consultation and coordination efforts with other Federal, State, and local agencies as well as comments presented by the public.

THE SECTION 202 WILDERNESS REVIEW PROCESS AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH PLANNING

To accomplish the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, the BLM developed a wilderness review process containing three phases: inventory, study, and reporting. This same process is used for the Section 202 WSAs which are being studied in accordance with the general land use planning provisions of Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and

Introduction

policies that provide for wilderness consideration of areas of less than 5,000 acres if they are adjacent to lands with wilderness potential administered by other Federal agencies.

The first phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involved inventorying all the public lands to identify areas containing wilderness characteristics as described in the Wilderness Act. Areas found to possess wilderness characteristics were selected for study; areas found to lack wilderness characteristics were dropped from further consideration. Public participation opportunities were provided during the inventory and all decisions were subject to appeal.

This inventory process and a general description of all of California's WSAs are given in Wilderness: Final Intensive Inventory, Public Lands Administered by BLM California Outside the California Desert Conservation Area (1979). A copy of this publication is available at any BLM office.

The second step in the review process was to integrate wilderness evaluation into the BLM Planning System (43 CFR 1600), which in this case, involves amendments to existing Management Framework Plans (MFP) and Resource Management Plans (RMP). The wilderness study criteria and quality standards containing the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy: Policies, Criteria and Guidelines for Conducting Wilderness Studies on Public Lands (47 FR 5098-5122) were applied to each WSA.

In addition to the above referenced criteria and standards, issues for discussion were identified through public comment and internal scoring; conflicts were analyzed, and alternatives were developed. See the individual sections for each of the Section 202 WSAs for a discussion of the selection of the Proposed Actions and development of alternatives as well as issues and alternatives considered but not found to be significant enough for detailed analysis. These alternatives are the basis for analysis of environmental consequences and resource tradeoffs.

Two final Environmental Impact Statements (FEIS) have been prepared with State Director's concurrence following public review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Two of the eight Section 202 WSAs from the DEIS have been recommended for wilderness designation and are included in this FEIS. This document will be reviewed by the BLM Director and the Secretary of the Interior, who will file the FEIS and make a recommendation to the President. Subsequently, the President has up to two years to make a final recommendation to Congress. Congress has the sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Until Congress decides whether or not to designate any of these areas as wilderness, the WSAs will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (Department of the Interior, December 1979, as amended 1983).

For the six Section 202 WSAs not recommended for wilderness designation, the State Director has the authority under FLPMA to release those public lands from wilderness study and return them to multiple use management in accordance with existing land use plans. A FEIS will be prepared for these WSAs with a 30-day public review period. A Draft Record of Decision is filed for a 60-day Governor's Review, after which the Record of Decision is completed. Multiple use management may begin 30 days after the State Director signs the record of decision.

SCOPING

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR Part 1501.7) and the BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-1) require an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping determines the significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS and identifies and eliminates from detailed study insignificant issues or issues addressed in earlier environmental reviews. Scoping thus reduces the length of the EIS and emphasizes the real alternatives and impacts.

During this process, the scope and importance of issues related to the Proposed Action and alternatives were identified. Information obtained during the scoping process was one of the sources used to determine which impact topics would be addressed in detail in this EIS. Additional purposes of the scoping process are to inform affected Federal, state, and local agencies and other interested parties about the proposed project, and to identify existing environmental reports and information related to the impact assessment.

The scoping process involved discussions with the public and resource specialists and managers of BLM and other relevant agencies. Written comments were received and compiled as a result of Federal Register announcements, news releases, mailings, and articles about the proposal. Comments were also solicited during public meetings. In addition, the initial scoping effort has been followed by an effort to continue agency and public involvement throughout the development of this EIS. This section outlines the steps taken by BLM for the scoping and public involvement process for the EIS.

SCOPING PROCESS

* Initial wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1978-1979.

* Intensive wilderness inventory and public comment period - 1979-1980.

A Notice of Intent to prepare plan amendments for the Coast/Valley RMP and South Sierra Foothills MFP in the Bakersfield District, California; Tulead/Homecamp MFP and Alturas RMP in the Susanville District, California; East Mendocino MFP and Redding Land Use Plan in the Ukiah District, California; and the Walker RMP in the Carson City District, Nevada; and an Environmental Impact Statement for the eight wilderness study areas included in the draft EIS was published in the Federal Register on December 2, 1986.

A scoping letter and mailing list renewal card was mailed to over 1,250 organizations, agencies and individuals on the Bakersfield, Susanville, Ukiah, and Carson City, Nevada Districts' wilderness mailing lists. This letter explained the planning process and asked for identification of issues for the study areas. Thirty responses were received.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

During the scoping process environmental issues relating to whether a WSA is to be managed as wilderness or managed for multiple resource values were identified by the BLM, the public, and by other Federal, State, and local agencies. After the issues were identified for each WSA, they were assessed to determine if they would be selected for detailed analysis in the EIS. Generally, the issues focused on the impact on wilderness values as a result of designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness. Additional concerns assessed for consideration in the EIS related to the impact on resources such as water quality, threatened and endangered species, fisheries, wildlife, and cultural resources. Issues related to activities such as recreational ORV use, mineral/energy development, and timber harvest were also assessed for analysis in the EIS.

A further discussion of specific issues analyzed in detail in the EIS and the issues dismissed from further analysis is contained in the individual sections of this document that follow for each WSA.

SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

Development of the Proposed Action is guided by requirements of the Bureau's Planning Regulations, 43 CFR Part 1600. The BLM's Wilderness Study Policy (published February 3, 1982, in the Federal Register) supplements the planning regulations by providing specific factors to be considered during the planning sequence in developing suitability recommendations.

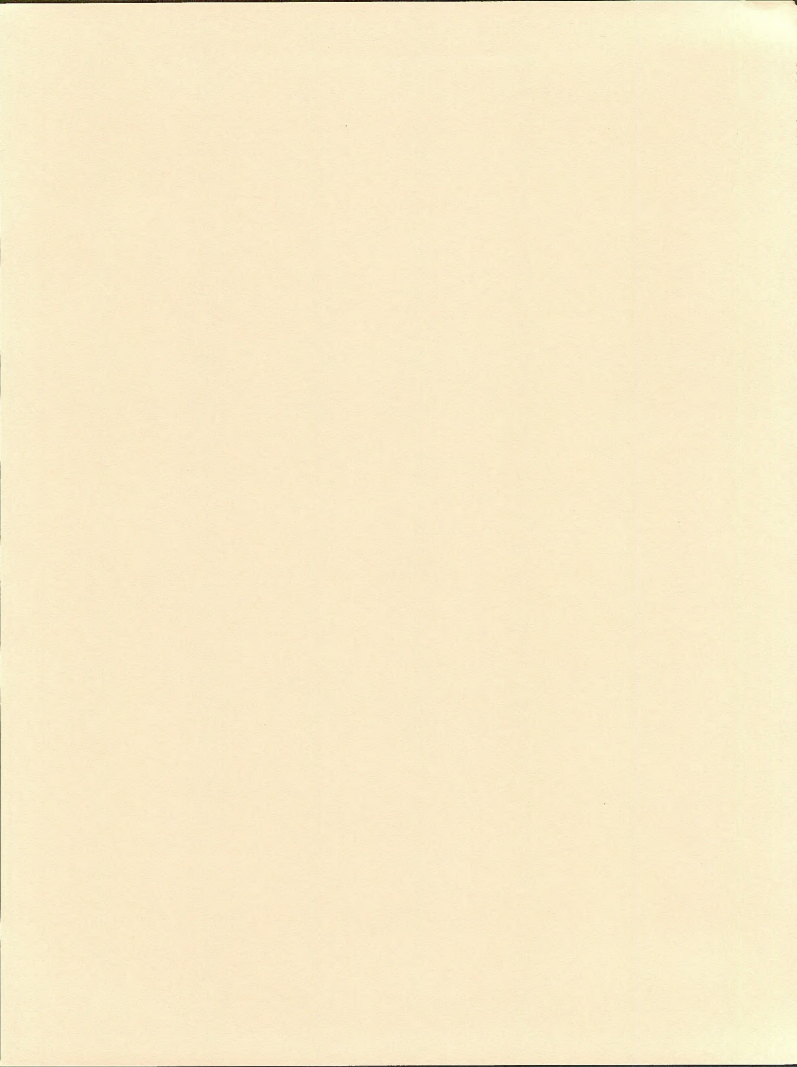
In this document, the No Action Alternative, as required by the National Environmental Protection Act, and the No Wilderness Alternative are equivalent. Both advocate continuation of management as outlined in the existing MFPs and RMPs.

The All Wilderness Alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation.

Partial Wilderness Alternatives can make suitable or unsuitable recommendations ranging between the All Wilderness and No Action Alternatives. A Partial Wilderness Alternative can recommend as suitable for wilderness designation something less than the entire acreage of one WSA.

A discussion of the selection of the Proposed Action and development of alternatives for each WSA is included in the sections of this document that follow describing the individual WSAs. For each WSA, any alternatives that were considered but not included in the EIS for further analysis are also identified.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS
OF THE SPECIFIC
SECTION 202 WSAs



South Warner Contiguous WSA



SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA
(CA-020-708)

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SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA

(CA-020-708)

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The South Warner Contiguous WSA is located in Modoc County, California. The WSA consists of nine separate parcels located along 18 miles of the east face of the Warner Mountains. The parcels range in size from 40 acres to 2,399 acres. The total size of the WSA is 4,500 acres. The parcels are adjacent the U.S. Forest Service lands administered by the Modoc National Forest. The Forest lands are part of the South Warner Wilderness, a designated wilderness of 70,385 acres.

The South Warner Contiguous WSA forms portions of the lower and middle slopes of the east side of the Warner Mountains. This side of the range is dominated by large-scale faulting which results in steep slopes and exposed rock faces. The exposed rocks are mostly sedimentary and deep canyons have eroded into the face. The crest of the Warners effectively blocks precipitation, resulting in barren slopes with scattered brush and tree cover. The combination of eroded topography and sparse vegetation gives the impression of "badlands." Many of the canyons contain live streams with associated riparian zones of aspen, conifers and dense shrubs, which provide contrast to the adjacent barren hillsides.

Other important resources found within the South Warner Contiguous WSA include year-long mule deer habitat primarily associated with the canyon bottoms, hawk, eagle, and falcon nesting habitat associated with rock cliffs and future winter/spring bighorn sheep foraging habitat on the open slopes and ridges in the central parcels of the WSA.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

For the South Warner Contiguous Section 202 WSA, the following issue was identified during the scoping process and selected for analysis in the EIS.

- Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness designation or nondesignation of the WSA could have beneficial or adverse impacts on its wilderness values.

Additional issues were assessed to determine their significance for analysis in the EIS. However, upon further consideration they were not selected for detailed analysis. A brief discussion of each issue and the reason for dismissing it from analysis in the EIS follows.

- Impacts on Livestock Grazing and Range Management

An issue concerning the continuation of livestock grazing and actions required in support of livestock grazing was considered but not included for analysis in this EIS. The Wilderness Act and BLM wilderness policy provide for the continued use of wilderness areas for livestock operations at historic levels. Although the management practices of livestock operators in the WSA would be more closely regulated, they would continue as they did prior to wilderness designation. There are no proposed additional projects in the WSA. It is anticipated that the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in the WSA would remain at the levels in effect at the time of wilderness designation. If monitoring reveals conclusively that increased forage could be made available with no adverse impact on wilderness values such as plant communities, primitive recreation, and wildlife populations or habitat, some increases in livestock use may be permissible. This does not imply, however, that wilderness lends itself to AUM or livestock increases.

- Impacts on Wildlife

An issue dealing with wildlife in general was considered but not included in this EIS because no specific impacts on populations or the habitat of any specific species were identified, based on the projections of development in the WSA. Little or no change in wildlife populations or habitat is anticipated with wilderness designation or nondesignation.

- Impacts on Threatened or Endangered Species

Wildlife and vegetation inventories and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not identify any threatened or endangered species in the South Warner Contiguous WSA. The five species of rare plants found or anticipated within the WSA are not considered threatened by the Fish and Wildlife Service. None of the five species is presently being considered as a candidate for listing as either threatened or endangered by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Accordingly, none of the identified future management actions would impact any of the habitat of the rare species. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.

- Impacts on Cultural Resources

Cultural resource inventories and consultation with Forest Service archaeologists have not revealed any cultural resource sites within the WSA. Based upon inventories both inside and near the WSA and site analysis outside the WSA, the site types projected within the WSA would not be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is possible that projected sites could be part of archaeological districts of National Register quality centered on sites outside the WSA. However, there are no actions projected within the WSA which would impact projected sites. Therefore, this issue was dropped from consideration.

- Impacts on Timber Harvesting

Commercial development of timber resources within designated wilderness could be eliminated. However, the potential of commercial timber production within the WSA is considered low. The small size of the timber base (32 acres), slopes in excess of 40 percent, and the low value of white fir indicate that practical and economic considerations would preclude harvest of the available timber. Additionally, existing land use plan decisions do not allow for timber harvest on these parcels due to scenic value considerations. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.

- Impacts on Mineral Resource Development

Development of mineral resources within designated wilderness areas could be affected by wilderness management restrictions. However, the potential for mineral resources is considered low and no mining claims exist in the WSA. The potential for oil and gas resources is low. The potential for geothermal resources is low. The few acres of sand and gravel potential are located near the abundant existing sources with access in place. The mineral resource survey for the Forest Service South Warner Wilderness (Duffield and Weldin, 1976) concludes that there is low potential for economic quantities of any mineral commodity. Therefore, this issue was dropped from further consideration.

- Impacts on Water Quality and Riparian Habitat

During the public scoping process, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board expressed a concern regarding impacts on water quality and riparian habitat as a result of overgrazing by livestock as well as wild horse and burro use in northern California Resource Areas. In reviewing the South Warner Contiguous WSA, four of the nine parcels within the WSA, the Granger, Van Riper, Barber, and Emerson parcels are authorized for a total of 150 AUMs of sheep and cattle use. The Granger parcel is only lightly grazed (15 AUMs) with no known riparian degradation as a result of this use. The other parcels are included within the Tulead Allotment Management Plan that calls for riparian habitat improvements. The level of grazing use within the WSA is anticipated to remain at the current level of 135 AUMs within 15 to 20 year planning projections. Additionally, there are no known wild horse and burro herds in the vicinity of the WSA. Since wilderness designation or nondesignation will not result in a change in the level of livestock grazing use this issue is not considered for detailed analysis in the EIS.

SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The following Proposed Action and Alternatives for the South Warner Contiguous WSA were selected for analysis in this EIS.

Proposed Action (Partial Wilderness)

1,187 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation

3,313 Acres Nonwilderness

The Granger, Milk, Cottonwood, Owl, and 200 acres of the Hornback parcel will be managed as wilderness. The Eagle, Emerson, Barber, Van Riper, and 12 acres of the Hornback parcel will be managed for multiple use management under the existing land use plans. The parcels to be managed as wilderness were selected to bring the wilderness boundary down to the base of the east face of the Warner Mountains. The designated wilderness will also include all of the public lands which are used by the bighorn sheep on a regular basis. The parcels not under wilderness management do not maintain the same topographic, or vegetative features as the adjacent wilderness lands. Several of the nonwilderness parcels are contiguous to the South Warner Wilderness along only a small portion of their boundaries.

All Wilderness Alternative

4,500 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation

0 Acres Nonwilderness

The entire 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be designated wilderness. This alternative represents the maximum possible acreage that could be designated wilderness.

No Wilderness/No Action Alternative

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation

4,500 Acres Nonwilderness

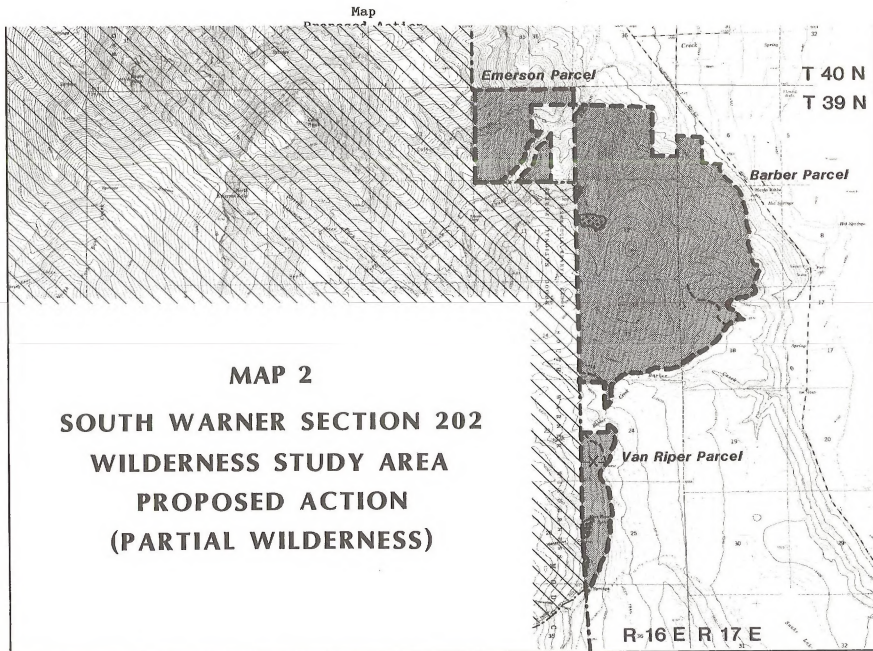
None of the 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be designated as wilderness.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

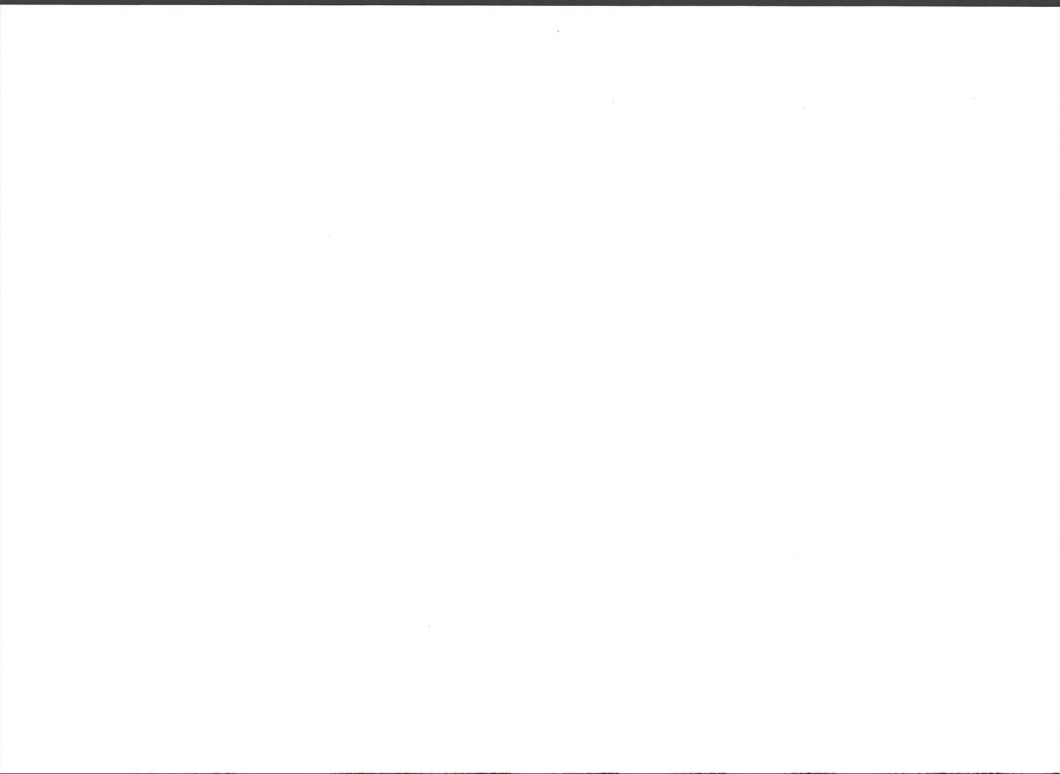
No other alternatives were considered for further analysis. During scoping and issue analysis, no other configuration of parcels and/or portions of parcels was identified which would have provided additional partial wilderness alternatives.

THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Since the pattern of future management actions within the WSA cannot be predicted with certainty, projections of management actions have been made to allow analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and alternatives. These projections are the basis of the impacts identified in the EIS. They represent reasonably feasible patterns of activities which could occur and the Proposed Action and alternatives analyzed.



South Warner



PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

1,187 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
3,313 Acres Nonwilderness

Under the Proposed Action, 1,187 acres within the South Warner Contiguous WSA will be designated as wilderness and managed to complement the adjacent USFS South Warner Wilderness Area. The nonwilderness portion will be managed for multiple use under the guidance of the Tuleadad/Home Camp MFP and the Alturas RMP. The WSA will continue to provide limited livestock forage and important wildlife habitat.

Recreation Management Actions

Wilderness designation will close 1,187 acres of the WSA to recreational ORV use. However, due to the topography and access of the wilderness parcels no vehicle ways will be closed and no vehicle use will be affected. The 2 miles of vehicle way are outside the area recommended for wilderness designation and will remain open. Visitor use will not significantly change from the existing 200 use days annually of which 50 visitor days are attributed to recreational ORV use. No recreation management facilities will be developed.

Wildlife Management Actions

The Hornback, Owl, Cottonwood, and Granger parcels will be included in the California Department of Fish and Game/Forest Service bighorn sheep management plan. No facilities are anticipated within the WSA as a result of the plan. No other wildlife management actions are projected for the WSA.

Grazing Management Actions

Livestock grazing by sheep will continue on the Van Riper and Barber parcels and by cattle on the Emerson, Van Riper, Barber, and Granger parcels. The forage harvest will remain 150 AUMs with no increases projected. Only 15 AUMs will be harvested in the wilderness portion.

The existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing will continue to be maintained on a yearly basis. All maintenance activities will occur in the nonwilderness portion of the WSA. The maintenance will require one vehicle trip annually in the Van Riper parcel and two vehicle trips annually in the Barber parcel. No new projects will be developed.

Mineral/Energy Development Actions

A portion of the WSA encompassing 1,187 acres will be withdrawn from mineral entry. Since no mineral discovery has occurred, and based upon a low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources, it is not anticipated that a mineral/energy discovery will occur prior to designation. Therefore, there will be no future mineral/energy exploration in this portion of the WSA.

The 3,313 acres not designated as wilderness will remain open to mineral entry. Based upon the lack of existing claims/leases, the small size of the area and the low favorability for the accumulation of mineral/energy resources no future exploration or development activities are projected.

Timber Management Actions

The designated portion of the WSA has no commercial timber resources. The nonwilderness portion of the WSA contains 32 acres of commercial timber lands on the Van Riper and Barber parcels. However, the existing land use plan decision for the parcels does not allow timber harvests due to scenic values and benefit/cost considerations. Therefore, there will be no timber management actions within the WSA.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

No Cultural Resource Management actions will occur within the WSA.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

The Granger, Milk, Cottonwood, Hornback, Owl, and Eagle parcels will be transferred to Forest Service management either through legislation or by administrative agreement. The on-the-ground management will not be affected by this shift of management responsibility.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

4,500 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Nonwilderness

All of the 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be designated as wilderness and managed to compliment the USFS South Warner Wilderness Area. Under this alternative recreation ORV use would be eliminated.

Livestock grazing would continue on four parcels as an authorized use. Discretionary management actions would be permitted only to preserve wilderness values.

Recreation Management Actions

The entire WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. Due to limited access and steep topography this will affect only the Van Riper and Barber parcels. The 2 miles of vehicle way would be closed eliminating approximately 50 use days annually of recreational ORV use made during the October hunting season. Nonmotorized use would be expected to increase by 25 use days annually. Overall visitor use would decline by 25 use days annually for a total of 175 visitor use days.

Wildlife Management Actions

Wildlife Management actions would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

Grazing Management Action

The WSA would continue to provide 150 AUMs of forage for sheep and cattle in two grazing allotments. No livestock grazing projects would be constructed. The existing projects would require yearly maintenance. This would result in one vehicle trip annually in the Van Riper parcel and two vehicle trips annually in the Barber parcel to maintain two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing.

Minerals/Energy Development Actions

The entire WSA would be closed to mineral/energy exploration and development. Since no mineral discovery has occurred and based upon a low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources, it is not anticipated that a mineral/energy discovery would occur prior to designation. Therefore, there would be no future mineral or energy exploration in the WSA.

Timber Management Actions

The entire WSA would be closed to timber management actions. Therefore, no timber management actions would occur.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

No Cultural Resource management actions would occur within the WSA.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Land tenure adjustment actions would essentially be the same as described for the Proposed Action. However, all 4,500 acres within the WSA would be included for Forest Service administration.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
4,500 Acres Nonwilderness

None of the 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be designated as wilderness. The area would be managed under the guidance of the Tuleadad/Home Camp MFP and the Alturas RMP which emphasize the livestock and wildlife resource uses within the WSA.

Recreation Management Actions

None of the WSA would be closed to recreational ORV use. None of the 2 miles of vehicle ways would be closed. Visitor use would remain at the existing level of 200 use days annually, much of which is associated with the October hunting season. No visitor facilities would be developed.

Wildlife Management Actions

Wildlife management actions would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

Grazing Management Actions

Grazing management actions would be the same as described for the Proposed Action. Grazing would continue in the WSA at the present level with no wilderness management restrictions.

Minerals/Energy Development Actions

The entire WSA would remain open for mineral/energy entry. However, based on the lack of existing claims/leases and the low favorability for the accumulation of mineral and energy resources, no mineral or energy exploration or development are projected within the WSA.

Timber Management Action

Timber management actions would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

No Cultural Resource management actions would occur within the WSA.

Land Tenure Adjustment Actions

Land Tenure Adjustment actions would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND THE ALTERNATIVES
FOR THE SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation of 1,187 acres of the South Warner Contiguous WSA will result in a slight positive benefit to wilderness values. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts will be provided. Wilderness values within the 1,187 acres will be retained with 15 AUMs of continued livestock grazing not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values. Wilderness values within the 3,313 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness will generally be retained. Continued recreational ORV use on a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways will have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and will periodically result in minor disruptions of solitude. Continued livestock grazing at 135 AUMs is not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values with negligible impacts to solitude resulting from three vehicle trips annually to maintain the existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing. No other activities are planned within the nonwilderness portion of the WSA.	Wilderness designation of the entire 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would have a slight positive benefit on wilderness values. The closure of 2 miles of vehicle ways and elimination of 50 visitor days of recreational ORV use would locally improve the perception of naturalness and sense of solitude. Livestock grazing use would continue at the existing level of 150 AUMs. Maintenance activities for existing livestock facilities would require three vehicle trips annually resulting in negligible impacts to solitude. No other management actions are projected for the WSA. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts would be provided.	Wilderness values within the 4,500-acre WSA would generally be retained. Continued recreational ORV use on a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways would have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and periodically result in minor disruptions of solitude. Continued livestock grazing at 150 AUMs is not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values with negligible impacts to solitude resulting from three vehicle trips annually to maintain the existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing. No other activities are planned within the WSA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section includes a brief description of the South Warner Contiguous WSA and the resources that could be affected by the management actions of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Because not all of the nine parcels have the same resources and uses, the parcels are discussed by name where applicable.

More detailed descriptions of the resources in the WSA and the regional socioeconomic conditions may be found in the planning documents for the area. Copies of these documents may be reviewed in the Susanville District Office and the Surprise Resource Area Office.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

The BLM Intensive Inventory determined that the South Warner Contiguous WSA was natural in character. Two parcels do contain human related disturbances which slightly reduce naturalness.

The Van Riper parcel is crossed by one-quarter mile of barbed wire fence near the north end of the parcel. Adjacent to the fence is a vehicle way of approximately one-half mile in length used by deer hunters in the fall and by livestock permittees during the summer. These disturbances are of minimal impact to the naturalness of the parcel.

The Barber parcel contains two spring development projects near the eastern boundary of the parcel. Each project has one 750-gallon green water trough. One of the projects has a 20-foot-square fence around the spring source. There is a vehicle way of approximately 1 mile in length which extends into and beyond the southern spring development. At the southern edge of the parcel, there is a vehicle way of approximately one-half mile. The two vehicle ways are used by deer hunters in the fall and livestock permittees in the summer for maintenance access of fencing and the spring development. This parcel also has approximately 2 miles of bladed firelines, constructed in 1984. The firelines were water-barred and vehicle access closed after the fire was out. The fire scar itself covers approximately 910 acres of the parcel and is naturally revegetating with grasses, forbs, and shrubs, found on site before the fire. These impacts are of minimal impact to the overall naturalness of the parcel.

The Emerson parcel and the northwestern corner of the Barber parcel are bisected by the Emerson Road. The WSA does not include the road, therefore, the road does not affect naturalness of the parcels.

The remaining several parcels have no identified impacts to naturalness. The overall landscape of the WSA has retained its natural character.

Solitude

The WSA does contain outstanding opportunities for solitude. Although the parcels are small, the eroded topography, deep canyons, and ravines provide numerous opportunities for visitors to find solitude. The northern portion of the WSA (from the Eagle parcel north) and the eastern portion of the Barber parcel look into Surprise Valley ranch fields and onto Modoc County Road #1, the main road east of the Warner Range. Visitors to these areas would certainly be aware of the movement of vehicle and farm equipment on a regular and frequent basis.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

The WSA contains limited opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation associated with hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife observation, and rock climbing. The small size of the parcels and the limitations of public access on the Eagle, Owl, Hornback, Cottonwood, and Milk parcels limit recreational opportunities if the WSA is considered alone. The WSA is not expected to receive significant visitor use due to the topography and the large areas of similar Forest Service lands within short distances of the existing trail system.

Special Features

The WSA contains a very small portion of the year-long habitat of the Warner Mountain bighorn sheep herd. This herd was reestablished in 1980 after a 50-year absence from the area. The Hornback, Owl, and Cottonwood parcels are located in the heart of the sheep winter/spring foraging areas. The Emerson and Eagle parcels were also known to receive occasional bighorn use. It is anticipated that bighorn sheep will be re-introduced at some future date.

LAND OWNERSHIP

The South Warner Contiguous WSA is comprised of nine separate parcels totaling approximately 4,500 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. The parcels range in size from 40 acres to 2,399 acres.

Summary of Acreage

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Granger	627
Milk	120
Cottonwood	200
Owl	40
Hornback	212
Eagle	200
Emerson	431
Barber	2,399
Van Riper	<u>271</u>
TOTAL	4,500

All of the parcels adjoin the eastern boundary of the South Warner Wilderness. Several parcels including Granger, Milk, Cottonwood, Owl, and a portion of Emerson also adjoin the wilderness boundary along their southern boundaries. The northern boundary of the Granger parcel and the eastern boundary of the Barber and Van Riper parcels adjoin non-WSA BLM lands. Most of the eastern boundary of the Cottonwood parcel adjoins State of California land administered by the Department of Fish and Game. The remaining parcel boundaries adjoin private lands.

There are no existing rights-of-way within any parcel. Four parcels have rights-of-way which form part of their boundary. Approximately one-quarter mile of the eastern boundary of the Hornback parcel is formed by a power-line right-of-way. The Emerson road right-of-way cuts across the Emerson and Barber parcels. The Patterson road right-of-way forms much of the boundary of the Barber and Van Riper parcels.

Two parcels of private land are surrounded by Forest Service and WSA lands, but in both cases the private parcel has legal access. A 160-acre parcel in Emerson Canyon is bisected by the Emerson Road and the 160-acre parcel on Barber Creek contacts the Patterson Road.

Legal access exists to the west side of all of the parcels through the wilderness area. On the east side, six of the nine parcels have legal access from public roads, Federal lands, or across State of California lands. The Milk, Owl, and Eagle parcels have no legal access from the east.

RECREATION

Recreational use of the South Warner Contiguous WSA is low with an estimated 200 visitor use days annually. Due to the steep slopes and lack of access, almost all of the use occurs on the Emerson, Barber, and Van Riper parcels. Hunting accounts for an estimated 160 visitor use days of which 50 visitor use days are associated with ORVs. The remaining use is made by hunters and fishermen accessing the WSA on foot or horseback. The vehicle ways used by recreational visitors are discussed under Wilderness Naturalness and total approximately 2 miles in length. Cross country skiing has been reported on the Barber and Van Riper parcels.

VISUAL RESOURCES

The entire South Warner Contiguous WSA is within a zone of high scenic quality. The combination of topographic relief, eroded canyons, pockets of vegetation, and lush riparian zones all contribute to the outstanding scenic quality of the entire east face of the Warner Mountains.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

No inventories for cultural resources have been conducted by the BLM within the WSA. The Van Riper and the southern half of the Barber parcels were partially inventoried in the late 1960's by O'Connell (1970). No

sites were found within the WSA. However, based upon nearby BLM inventories and the O'Connell study it is probable that cultural resource sites do occur within the WSA. Temporary upland hunting camps are anticipated on flat areas overlooking creeks and springs. Based upon topography and the size of the WSA, it is expected that less than 15 of these sites might occur in the WSA. The other site type projected for the WSA is the hunting blind. This site consists of small rock rings and walls which provide cover in areas of prehistoric big game use areas, particularly bighorn sheep use areas. An estimated 10-15 of this site type are expected within the WSA.

WILDLIFE

The wildlife resources of the South Warner Contiguous WSA are more diverse than the small size of the area might indicate. The diversity is a result of the wide range of topography, elevation, and vegetation types within and adjacent to the WSA. The east face of the Warner Mountains is the habitat link between the sagebrush and meadow sites to the east and the coniferous forests to the west. Therefore, the WSA contains species from both types of habitats.

Mule deer are the most common game animal found in the WSA. The parcels are used year-long by up to 500 deer. Antelope use the Van Riper and Barber parcels during the late spring/summer period. Approximately 50 antelope are found on the open slopes. Other game species include California quail in the riparian zones, with abundance regulated by habitat quantity. The isolated timber pockets receive limited use by blue grouse. Sage grouse have been reported strutting from the Van Riper and Barber parcels.

California bighorn sheep were found between the Emerson and Cottonwood parcels prior to the 1988 die-off. Most of the use occurs on the Hornback, Owl, and Cottonwood parcels with occasional use on the Emerson and Eagle parcels. The Warner herd was approximately 60 animals in 1987 and was established through transplants in 1980. The estimated carrying capacity of the entire herd use area is 80 sheep. The bighorn population had a die off in early 1988 resulting in the loss of the entire herd. The parcels of the WSA which were used by the sheep comprise a very small portion of the entire range of the herd. Because the parcels are near the toe of the slope most of the use was made during the winter/early spring period. California bighorn sheep are classified as a rare species by the State of California.

Trout are found in Granger, Eagle, and Emerson creeks, with fishery quality rated as fair. Fishery quality is limited by steep stream gradients and seasonal water fluctuations.

Nongame species most commonly observed within the WSA include the Golden Eagle, Prairies Falcon, Goshawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Clark's Nutcracker, deer mouse, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, and porcupine.

There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered animal species known to nest or have winter roosts within the WSA.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the South Warner Contiguous WSA reflects the diversity of elevation, topography and geology.

The parcels north of Emerson Canyon are relatively bare of vegetation due to large exposures of rock and steep, eroded slopes. The vegetation is primarily scattered sagebrush and western juniper with bluebunch wheatgrass, squirrel-tail, Idaho fescue, and a wide variety of forbs in the understory. The riparian zones in the canyons on the parcels contain aspen, ponderosa pine, white fir, waterbirch, and willow.

The parcels south of Emerson Canyon are more densely covered with vegetation. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush, bitterbrush, mountain mahogany and occasional stands of white fir.

Limited inventory for threatened and endangered plants has been conducted in the Granger and Milk parcels. Populations of two rare plants, Galium glabrescens ssp. modocense and Dimeresia howellii were found on both parcels. Based upon soils and topography the Cottonwood, Owl, Hornback, and Eagle parcels are also expected to contain population of these plants. Additional inventory to the west of these parcels on Forest Service lands has discovered several additional rare plants which are also expected to occur on the above mentioned parcels. These plants are Cryptantha subretusa, Eriogonum procidium and Draba stenoloba var. ramosa. None of these plants are considered threatened.

TIMBER RESOURCES

The Barber and Van Riper parcels contain small acreages of commercial forest lands. Each parcel contains several small blocks of white fir totaling 16 acres per parcel. The total volume of commercial timber is approximately 300 MBF. There have been no known harvest on these lands. The existing Tuledad/Home Camp land use plan does not allow for timber harvest due to the scenic values and the benefit/cost of logging white fir on steep topography.

SOILS AND WATERSHED

The northern portion of the WSA, from the Hornback parcel north, contains soils derived from sedimentary deposits of volcanic origin. The predominant material is volcanic mudflows with some sandstones and ash flows also in the soils. The soils on these parcels are highly erosive and most of the parcels have the appearance of "badlands".

The WSA from the Eagle parcel south contains soils derived from a variety of volcanic materials including basalt, andesite, and ash. The soils have slight to moderate erosion potential.

All of the parcels are cut by numerous water courses which carry the heavy spring runoff. The Granger, Milk, Eagle, Emerson, and Barber parcels are crossed by perennial creeks carrying water from spring sources on the Forest Service land.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

There are no ongoing minerals exploration or production activities within the WSA. There are no active claims, leases, or sales as of March 25, 1988. The mineral resources report for the South Warner Wilderness (Duffield and Weldin 1976) covered all of the lands in the WSA and serves as the major source of geological and minerals information for past activities and future potential.

Locatable Minerals

An estimated 10 to 20 mining claims were filed in the WSA prior to 1955. None of the claims are currently valid. Most of the claims were apparently filed on calcite deposits which are used for optical instruments. Most of the applications for optical grade calcite are now filled with synthetic materials. Stream sediment and bedrock samples have been analyzed from each parcel within the WSA except the 40-acre Owl parcel. The entire WSA was evaluated using aeromagnetic surveys. The mineral resource report indicates that there are no valuable concentrations of minerals within the WSA.

Leasable Minerals

There are no current leases for either geothermal or oil and gas. Geothermal springs do occur just east of the Barber parcel and exploration geothermal wells have been drilled approximately 5 miles north of the Granger parcel. However, geothermal potential is expected to occur along or east of the Surprise Valley fault zone which is east of the WSA. Geothermal potential is considered low within the WSA.

Between 1901 and 1914 several claims for petroleum were staked within or near the northern parcels of the WSA. There are no records of any drilling in the WSA and no productive wells exist near the WSA. Based upon Sandberg's (1983) study of the oil and gas potential in WSAs in northwestern Nevada, it is likely that the volcanic activity, as evidenced by the geothermal sources, destroyed any oil or gas trapped in the rocks. Therefore, the potential for oil and gas within the WSA is considered to be low.

Salable Minerals

There are no sand and gravel sites within the WSA. Although there is some potential on the eastern portion of the Hornback parcel for sand and gravel, there are adjacent existing sources on private and public lands which are already operating. The potential for development of a site on the Hornback parcel is rated as low.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

The WSA provides livestock forage on four of the parcels in two grazing allotments. The Granger parcel includes approximately half of the Granger allotment and provides 15 AUMs of cattle forage between mid-April and the end of May each year. The Emerson, Barber, and Van Riper parcels together

comprise approximately 2 percent of the Tuledad allotment. The three parcels provide a total of 135 AUMs for cattle and sheep between the middle of April and mid-summer every other year. The other parcels within the WSA receive no livestock use.

There are no existing or proposed livestock projects on the Granger or Emerson parcels. The Barber parcel contains two existing spring development projects. The Van Riper parcel contains one-quarter mile of barbed wire fencing. There are no proposed projects for either parcel. Motorized vehicles are used for project maintenance activities on the Van Riper and Barber parcels. The listed projects as well as the boundary fence between the WSA and the Forest Service lands are inspected and maintained annually. This requires one vehicle trip on the Van Riper parcel and two vehicle trips on the Barber parcel annually.

Fencing of the parcels is highly variable. The boundary between the forest and the parcels is fenced in Granger Canyon, Emerson Canyon, the Barber parcel and portions of the Van Riper parcel. The remainder of parcels are thought to have the forest boundary unfenced. The other boundaries between private lands and the parcels are fenced where livestock could escape from private lands. These boundaries are unfenced where topography is steep and where adjacent private lands are not grazed.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section focuses directly on the issues identified through the scoping process. The environmental impacts of each alternative are described issue by issue. The environmental impacts of these alternatives on the area's other resources have also been analyzed and have been found to be insignificant.

Because of the general nature of this analysis and the lack of numerical and statistical information regarding the area's resources, impacts in this section are often expressed in relative terms. For the purpose of this analysis the meanings of these terms are as follows:

- Negligible or slight impact - the degree of anticipated environmental impact is considered less than minor.
- Minor impact - comparatively unimportant; in terms of the area's wildlife resources, a minor impact is one affecting a specific group of individuals of a population in a localized area for one generation or less; the integrity of the regional population is not likely to be affected.
- Moderate impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a change in the abundance of a resource or its distribution. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of a portion of the regional or local population would change over more than one generation, but would not affect the integrity of the regional population as a whole.

- Major impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a decline in the abundance of a resource or a change in distribution of a resource. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of the regional or local population of a species would decline beyond which natural recruitment would not likely return that population to its former level within several generations.

PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDERNESS)

1,187 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
3,313 Acres Nonwilderness

Under the Proposed Action, 1,187 acres within the South Warner Contiguous WSA will be recommended for wilderness designation. This portion of the WSA includes the Granger, Milk, Owl, and Cottonwood parcels, and 200 acres of the Hornback parcel. These parcels will be managed in conjunction with the adjacent USFS South Warner Wilderness Area to maintain existing wilderness values. The remaining 3,313 acres comprised of the Eagle, Emerson, Barber, and Van Riper parcels, and 12 acres of the Hornback parcel will not be designated wilderness. The nonwilderness portion of the WSA will be managed for multiple use under the existing Tuledad/Homecamp MFP and the Alturas RMP.

The primary concerns under the Proposed Action relate to the long-term protection of wilderness values within the WSA.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values within the 1,187 acres of the South Warner Contiguous WSA designated wilderness will receive special legislative protection. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation and portions of the Warner Mountain bighorn sheep habitat within this Section 202 WSA will be retained.

Within the portion of the WSA designated wilderness, livestock grazing will continue at the existing level of 15 AUMs. Existing wilderness values will be maintained at this low level of use. There are no existing livestock facilities to maintain or new facilities proposed in the wilderness portion of the WSA. There are no projected conflicts between livestock grazing and bighorn sheep due to the low level of livestock use and the small amount of bighorn sheep habitat within the WSA.

There are no other management actions planned for the 1,187 acres of the WSA designated wilderness that will result in any change or impacts on the wilderness values. There is currently no recreational ORV use or vehicle ways in these portions of the WSA. While this area will be included in the California Department of Fish and Game/Forest Service bighorn sheep management plan, no facilities are anticipated. There are currently no mining claims and based upon a low favorability for accumulation of mineral resources, it is not anticipated that a mineral/energy discovery will occur prior to wilderness designation. The WSA will be withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry resulting in no impacts to wilderness values. There are no commercial timber resources in the designated portion of the WSA, therefore there are no timber management actions that will affect wilderness values.

Wilderness values on the remaining 3,313 acres will not receive special legislative protection and will be subject to the effects of multiple use management primarily continued livestock grazing and recreational ORV use. Although mineral/energy exploration and development will be permitted, there are no activities projected due to the lack of existing claims/leases, the small size of the area and the low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources. The 32 acres of commercial timber within the nonwilderness portion of the WSA are precluded from timber harvest as a result of existing land use plan decisions regarding scenic values and benefit/cost considerations.

Recreational ORV use presently occurs on short stretches of vehicle ways that total 2 miles in length in the nonwilderness portions of the WSA. Continued recreational ORV use of an estimated 50 visitor days annually will have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and will result in periodic minor disruptions of solitude along these vehicle ways. Recreational ORV use in the WSA is primarily associated with hunting and will be most noticeable in the fall.

Livestock grazing use by cattle and sheep is projected to remain at the current level of 150 AUMs of which 135 AUMs occur in the nonwilderness portion of the WSA. This continued use is not anticipated to change the existing wilderness values. A total of three vehicle trips annually are required to maintain the existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing in the nonwilderness portion of the WSA. Maintenance activities will result in negligible impacts on solitude due to their infrequent nature. No other livestock projects will be developed.

Conclusion:

Wilderness designation of 1,187 acres of the South Warner Contiguous WSA will result in a slight positive benefit to wilderness values. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts will be provided. Wilderness values within the 1,187 acres will be retained with 15 AUMs of continued livestock grazing not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values.

Wilderness values within the 3,313 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness will generally be retained. Continued recreational ORV use on a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways will have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and will periodically result in minor disruptions of solitude. Continued livestock grazing at 135 AUMs is not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values with negligible impacts to solitude resulting from three vehicle trips annually to maintain the existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing. No other activities are planned within the nonwilderness portion of the WSA.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

There are no projected management actions or surface-disturbing activities that will result in any significant unavoidable adverse impacts. The continued low levels of livestock grazing activities and recreational ORV use will only locally result in negligible adverse impacts.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

Under the Proposed Action, future development options will be restricted within the 1,187 acres of the WSA designated as wilderness. However, all current short-term uses will continue. The long-term productivity will be slightly enhanced.

Within the 3,313 acres of the WSA not designated wilderness, all present short-term uses will continue and future development options will remain open. The long-term productivity of the WSA will be maintained and not significantly affected by the continued low levels of recreational ORV use and livestock grazing use. Without wilderness designation the possibility of activities such as mineral/energy development that could reduce long-term productivity is greater than under wilderness designation. However, in the South Warner Contiguous WSA there is a low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources and no mineral/energy development is anticipated.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Due to the low levels of continued recreational ORV use and livestock grazing use, no irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources are anticipated. Additionally, there are no other surface-disturbing activities including mineral development anticipated therefore, no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources is expected.

ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE

4,500 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Nonwilderness

Under this alternative, the entire 4,500 acres of the South Warner Contiguous WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. This Section 202 WSA would be managed in conjunction with the adjacent USFS South Warner Wilderness Area to maintain existing wilderness values.

The primary concerns under this alternative relate to the long-term protection of wilderness values within the WSA.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

All nine parcels of public land that comprise the 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be designated wilderness. All wilderness values within the WSA would receive special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. Wilderness values of naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and portions of the Warner Mountain bighorn sheep habitat within this Section 202 WSA would be retained.

There would be a slight positive benefit to wilderness values primarily naturalness and solitude as a result of prohibiting recreational ORV use within the WSA. The current 50 visitor days of vehicle use would be

eliminated and a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways would be closed. These primitive vehicle routes would naturally revegetate with bunchgrasses, sagebrush and other surrounding vegetation that would invade the bare soil area and improve the perception of naturalness.

Other than prohibiting recreational ORV use, management actions for the All Wilderness Alternative would be the same as for the Proposed Action. Livestock grazing would continue within portions of the WSA at the existing 150 AUMs. No change in the existing wilderness values is expected due to the low level of use by cattle and sheep. Maintenance of the two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing would continue to require three vehicle trips per year resulting in minor disruptions of solitude periodically. There are no projected conflicts between livestock use and bighorn sheep due to the low level of livestock use and the small amount of bighorn sheep habitat within the WSA. The entire 4,500-acre WSA would be closed to mineral/energy exploration and development since the lack of mining claims/leases and the low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources indicate that there would be no valid existing rights under wilderness designation. Timber harvesting, currently precluded by land use planning decisions, would also be prohibited under wilderness designation. Therefore, there are no management actions or surface disturbances that would impact the existing wilderness values within the South Warner Contiguous WSA.

Conclusion:

Wilderness designation of the entire 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would have a slight positive benefit on wilderness values. The closure of 2 miles of vehicle ways and elimination of 50 visitor days of recreational ORV use would locally improve the perception of naturalness and sense of solitude. Livestock grazing use would continue at the existing level of 150 AUMs. Maintenance activities for existing livestock facilities would require three vehicle trips annually resulting in negligible impacts to solitude. No other management actions are projected for the WSA. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts would be provided.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
4,500 Acres Nonwilderness

Under this alternative, the entire 4,500 acres within the South Warner Contiguous WSA would not be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation and would be managed for multiple use under the existing Tuledad/ Homecamp MFP and the Alturas RMP.

The primary concern under this alternative relates to the long-term protection of wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

None of the nine parcels of public lands that comprise the 4,500-acre South Warner Contiguous WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation under this alternative. Wilderness values within the WSA would not receive any of the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The wilderness values of this Section 202 WSA include naturalness, solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and portions of the Warner Mountain bighorn sheep habitat.

While the WSA would not be subjected to the restrictions of wilderness designation, there would be little difference in the management actions and projected impacts on wilderness values described under the Proposed Action. Recreational ORV use would continue on a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways with no increase in the current 50 visitor days projected. This continued use, primarily associated with hunting in the fall, would have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and would result in periodic minor disruptions of solitude along these vehicle ways.

Livestock grazing use would remain at the existing 150 AUMs with no increases anticipated. Maintenance of two existing spring developments and one-quarter mile of fence would result in negligible impacts on solitude due to the three vehicle trips required annually. There are no projected conflicts between livestock use and bighorn sheep due to the low level of livestock use and the small amount of bighorn sheep habitat within the WSA.

Although the entire 4,500 acres of the WSA would be open to mineral entry, there are no impacts to wilderness values anticipated. Due to the lack of existing claims/leases and the low favorability for the accumulation of mineral resources, no mineral/energy exploration or development is projected to occur within the WSA.

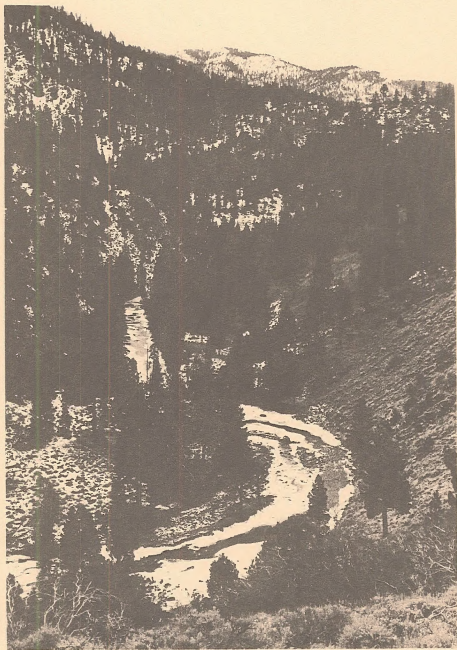
The 32 acres of commercial timber lands within the WSA would not be harvested under this alternative. Existing land use planning decisions preclude timber harvest on these parcels due to scenic values and benefit/cost considerations. Therefore, no impacts to wilderness values would occur as a result of timber harvest in the WSA.

Conclusion:

Wilderness values within the 4,500-acre WSA would generally be retained. Continued recreational ORV use on a total of 2 miles of vehicle ways would have a negligible impact on the perception of naturalness and would periodically result in minor disruptions of solitude. Continued livestock grazing at 150 AUMs is not anticipated to affect existing wilderness values with negligible impacts to solitude resulting from three vehicle trips annually to maintain the existing two spring developments and one-quarter mile of fencing. No other activities are planned within the WSA.



Carson Iceberg WSA



CARSON ICEBERG WSA
(NV-030-532)

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CARSON ICEBERG WSA

(NV-030-532)

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Carson Iceberg WSA contains 550 acres of public land in eastern Alpine County, California, along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada. Terrain includes timbered hillsides and the canyon of the East Fork of the Carson River. A mile and a half of the river meanders from south to north through a rugged canyon and past several minor side canyons. Elevations are between 6,300 and 7,000 feet. Vegetation is primarily Jeffrey pine and white fir overstory. Sagebrush and riparian vegetation occur in small zones.

Boundaries of the WSA are formed by an unpaved road in Bagley Valley on the northeastern side, by private land on the northern and southeastern sides, and on the western and southern sides by the Toiyabe National Forest.

The WSA is adjacent to the Forest Service administered 154,000-acre Carson Iceberg Wilderness. The East Fork of the Carson River flows through the Carson Iceberg Wilderness both upstream and downstream of the WSA. The landscape character is essentially the same in the WSA and the adjacent wilderness. The geographic features and wilderness values within the WSA are very similar to those in the adjacent wilderness.

In cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Toiyabe National Forest constructed the existing Carson River Trail, which provides major backcountry access from the Forest Service trailhead at Wolf Creek Meadows into the wilderness, through the middle of the WSA and parallel to the river. Thus the land within the WSA is integral to the Forest Service's wilderness management program. The trail is the only public access route to the WSA, because the road in Silver King Valley is not open to the general public.

The WSA generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature and is essentially pristine in nature.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

For the Carson Iceberg Section 202 WSA, one issue concerning wilderness values was identified during the scoping process and selected for analysis in the RIS.

- Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness designation or nondesignation of the WSA could have beneficial or adverse impacts on its wilderness values.

Carson Iceberg

Three additional issues were also assessed to determine their significance for analysis in the EIS. However, upon further consideration, they were not selected for detailed analysis. A brief discussion of the issues and the reasons for dismissing them from analysis in the EIS follows.

- Impacts on Water Quality

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board raised concern over protection of water quality in the East Fork of the Carson River and mentioned possible wild or scenic river status. There are no planned surface-disturbing activities or significant changes in use patterns within the WSA that would lead to potential impacts on water quality. The National Park Service has mentioned the East Fork of the Carson River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the State of California in 1986 ordered by law, the study of the suitability of a portion of the river-- which begins about 15 river miles downstream from the Carson Iceberg WSA and does not apply to the WSA for possible wild or scenic river designation. Therefore, the issue was not considered for detailed analysis in the EIS.

- Impacts on the Quality of Fisheries

The California Sport Fishing Alliance raised general concerns about the protection of quality fisheries, which relates closely to the protection of water quality in the river. While the East Fork of the Carson River does provide quality habitat for trout in the Carson Iceberg WSA, there are no management actions or development activities anticipated to happen in the foreseeable future which would threaten to impact the fishery or water quality, regardless of wilderness designation. Therefore, the issue was not considered for further analysis in the EIS.

- Impacts on Mineral/Energy Resource Development

Development of mineral resources within designated wilderness areas could be affected by wilderness management restrictions. The potential for mineral resources within the 550-acre Carson Iceberg WSA is generally considered low. However, mining activities within the region indicate the potential for locatable minerals may be moderate. Since there are no mining claims or mineral leases in the WSA, mineral exploration or development activities within a 15-20 year planning projection are not anticipated in the WSA based on the apparent lack of significant economic deposits of mineral/energy resources and restricted access. Therefore this issue was not considered for further detailed analysis in the EIS.

SELECTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The following Proposed Action and Alternative for the Carson Iceberg WSA were selected for analysis in this EIS.

Carson Iceberg

Proposed Action (All Wilderness)

550 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Nonwilderness

The Proposed Action for the Carson Iceberg WSA is to designate all 550 acres wilderness. The area has retained its natural character and contains excellent opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation, especially when considered with the Forest Service's Carson Iceberg Wilderness Area. Wilderness use is already the most prevalent actual use of the land, because hikers and equestrians on the Carson River Trail in the adjacent Carson Iceberg Wilderness currently travel through the WSA for about one mile. The WSA has wilderness qualities and characteristics similar to those in the immediately adjacent existing wilderness.

The WSA contains a mile and a half of the freely flowing East Fork of the Carson River and a diversity of vegetation types, dominated by coniferous forest stands. Scenic quality is high within the area, and the area offers quality vistas of high Sierra peaks in the adjacent Carson Iceberg Wilderness. Wildlife values are high. On the other hand, there are no known energy or mineral resources or potential for development of mineral or energy or other resource uses which will be foregone by wilderness designation. Timber stands in the WSA are administratively withdrawn from harvest to protect watershed values. Authorized livestock grazing will continue in the WSA at the current estimated 50 AUMs. There has never been motorized vehicle use in the area; the only public access is by foot or horseback through the Carson Iceberg Wilderness over 2 miles of the Carson River Trail.

No Wilderness Alternative (No Action)

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
550 Acres Nonwilderness

None of the 550 acres within the WSA would be designated wilderness. The area would be managed for multiple use as described in part by this document and in the BLM's Walker Resource Management Plan.

Management actions would differ little from those under the Proposed Action. Users of the existing adjacent Carson Iceberg Wilderness would still be the predominant land users of the area. The main difference would be that under the No Wilderness Alternative, the wilderness values would not be protected by legislative designation. Prospects for mineral activity are low, but mineral exploration could still proceed.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DROPPED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

A Partial Wilderness Alternative was considered but dropped. The study area is so small, and wilderness values are so prevalent throughout, that it is neither feasible, advantageous, nor appropriate to divide the area further.

THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

Since the pattern of future management actions within the WSA cannot be predicted with certainty, projections of management actions have been made to allow analysis of impacts under the Proposed Action and Alternative. These projections are the basis of the impacts identified in the EIS. They represent reasonably feasible patterns of activities which could occur under the Proposed Action and Alternative analyzed.

PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)

550 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Nonwilderness

Under the Proposed Action, all 550 acres in the Carson Iceberg WSA will be designated as wilderness. Management emphasis will be placed on protecting and maintaining the area's wilderness characteristics. Mineral exploration and development, logging, and motorized vehicle use will be prohibited. Livestock use will continue to be allotted at present levels. Discretionary management actions will be permitted only to preserve wilderness values.

Recreation Management Actions

Under the Proposed Action, 550 acres of public land will be closed to motorized vehicle use. This will not eliminate any motorized recreation in the area, however, because the area is not suitable or accessible for motorized vehicle use. There are no primitive vehicle routes within the WSA.

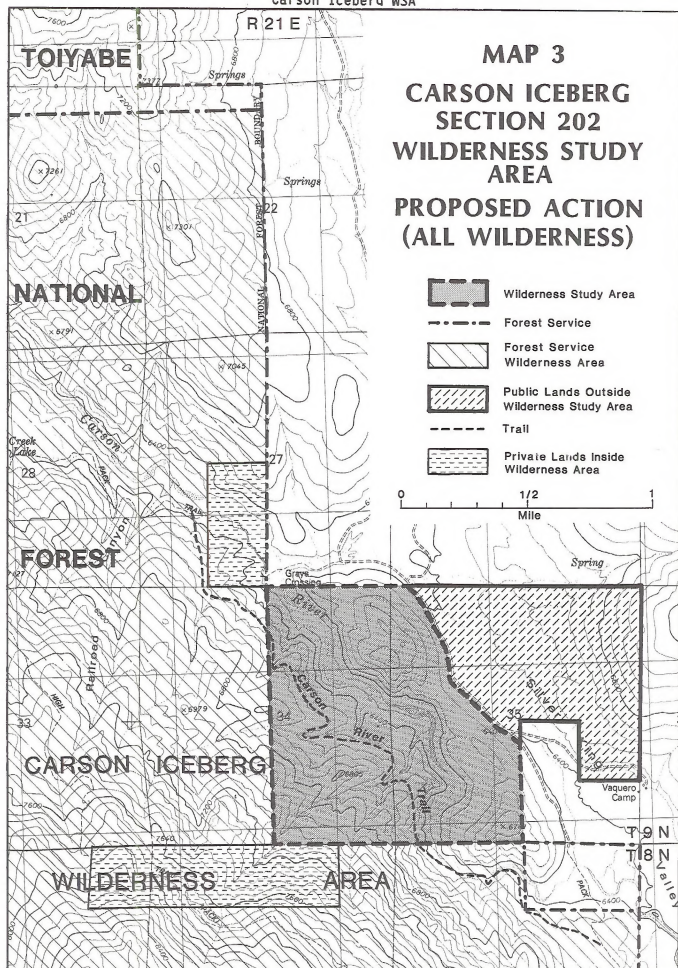
About one mile of the backcountry Carson River Trail traverses the middle of the WSA. The Forest Service will maintain this section as needed along with the rest of the trail. The current 400 visitor days of trail use estimated to occur are projected to increase to 640 visitor days over a period of five years and then level off. Backcountry use is projected to increase ten percent annually due to the recency of designation of the existing Carson Iceberg Wilderness, but not significantly as a result of adding the WSA to the existing wilderness.

The estimated 100 visitor days of fishing occurring within the WSA from late April through mid-November is projected to increase to 160 visitor days over a five-year period and then level off.

The estimated 15 visitor days of hunting for deer in late September and upland game all fall in the WSA is expected to increase to 24 visitor days over a five-year period and then level off.

Overall, recreation use will increase from the present annual 515 visitor days to 824 visitor days over a five-year period and then level off.

MAP 3
CARSON ICEBERG
SECTION 202
WILDERNESS STUDY
AREA
PROPOSED ACTION
(ALL WILDERNESS)



MAP FOR CARSON ICEBERG
PAGE 2

Wildlife Management Actions

No wildlife habitat management actions will occur under the Proposed Action, and no habitat management plans will be proposed. Fish and wildlife harvest and protection will continue to be administered by California Department of Fish and Game as at present.

Grazing Management Actions

Cattle grazing in the WSA will neither increase nor decrease from the current estimated 50 AUMs. No improvements exist to be maintained, and none will be proposed. No allotment management plan will be proposed for the Bagley Valley Allotment, which contains the WSA.

Mineral/Energy Development Management Actions

The entire 550 acres within the WSA will be closed to all forms of mineral entry. There are no mining claims within the WSA. Based on the lack of significant mineral potential it is not anticipated that any mineral discovery will occur prior to wilderness designation that will establish valid existing rights. Therefore, no mineral/energy development will occur under wilderness designation.

Timber Management Actions

Wilderness designation will preclude timber harvest from within the entire 550-acre WSA. The existing Walker Resource Area RMP has administratively withdrawn the area from harvest to protect water quality, soils, and watershed directly uphill from the East Fork of the Carson River. Therefore, no timber management actions will occur under the wilderness designation.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

No cultural resource sites have been identified in the WSA. No proposals for inventory, protection, interpretation, or nomination to the National Register of Historic Places are anticipated.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
550 Acres Nonwilderness

None of the 550 acres in the Carson Iceberg WSA would be designated wilderness, but all would continue to be managed for uses compatible with wilderness under the guidance of the Walker Resource Area RMP. Motorized vehicle use would be limited to designated routes which are outside the WSA. Livestock grazing would continue at present levels. Logging and other woodland harvest would not be allowed. Mineral exploration and development would be allowed, however no economically viable discovery and no mining are projected.

Carson Iceberg

Recreation Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative the management actions would essentially be the same as described under the Proposed Action. The only difference would be that the Walker Resource Area RMP limits motorized vehicle use to designated routes. For the WSA the effect would be the same as the Proposed Action since there are no designated routes within the WSA.

Wildlife Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative the wildlife management actions would be the same as described under the Proposed Action with no habitat management actions or habitat management plans proposed.

Grazing Management Actions

The grazing management actions for the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative would be the same as described under the Proposed Action. While there would be no constraints on livestock grazing due to wilderness designation, the current level of use is expected to continue with no increases or decreases anticipated. The level of use will remain at approximately 50 AUMs with no improvements proposed.

Mineral/Energy Development Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, the entire 550 acres within the WSA would be open to all forms of mineral entry. Based on the apparent lack of significant mineral potential, no discovery nor development of any energy resource or mineral deposit are projected to occur in the WSA. Due to this low potential and restricted access to the WSA through private lands in Bagley Valley, it is unlikely that any exploration or development for minerals would occur within a planning projection of 15-20 years.

Timber Management Actions

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, timber resources would continue to be administratively withdrawn from harvest to protect water quality, soils, and watershed directly uphill from the East Fork of the Carson River.

Cultural Resource Management Actions

Since no cultural resource sites have been identified within the WSA, no management actions are proposed under this alternative or Proposed Action.

COMPARISON OF IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND THE ALTERNATIVE
FOR THE CARSON ICEBERG WSA

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)	NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness designation of the Carson Iceberg WSA will result in a slight positive benefit for wilderness values. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts will be provided. An increase of approximately 309 visitor days of nonmotorized recreation use for a total of 824 visitor days will have a negligible impact on opportunities for solitude within the vicinity of the Carson Diver Trail. Livestock grazing use will continue at the existing 50 AUMs with no change in wilderness values anticipated.	There would be no significant impacts to wilderness values since there would be no projected surface-disturbing activities within the WSA, including motorized recreation use, timber harvest, and mineral development. An increase of approximately 309 visitor days of nonmotorized recreation use would have a negligible impact on opportunities for solitude. Continued livestock grazing use of 50 AUMs would not result in any anticipated change in wilderness values.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section includes a brief description of the Carson Iceberg WSA and the resources that could be affected by the management actions of the Proposed Action and alternative.

More detailed descriptions of the resources in the WSA and the regional socioeconomic conditions may be found in the planning documents for the area. Copies of these documents may be reviewed in the Carson City District Office and the Walker Resource Area Office.

WILDERNESS VALUES

Naturalness

The Carson Iceberg WSA is natural in character with the basic long-term ecological processes operating intact. Scattered decaying tree stumps are the only ready indications of historic logging. Second growth forest has now returned to a natural appearance. The few stumps visible from the trail constitute a slight impact and provide historic interest.

The Carson River Trail traverses the WSA on the west side of the river. Trail construction and maintenance by the U. S. Forest Service are typical for a wilderness hiking and pack trail and do not detract from the appearance of naturalness.

Solitude

Even for its small size of 550 acres, the WSA provides considerable opportunities for solitude, due to screening by dense forest cover and irregular topography. It is possible to hike or ride cross-country or on the trail and only briefly see other people who may be present in the WSA. Meadows along the East Fork of the Carson River and the forested ridge east of the river contain numerous small, secluded sites where visitors can find solitude from the main trail.

The Forest Service rerouted the Carson River Trail through the WSA because the new route offers solitude from developments and motorized vehicle use, to which the old route in Silver King Valley exposed wilderness travelers. Routing the wilderness trail through the WSA enables wilderness users to travel through the much larger Carson Iceberg Wilderness without the former interruptions of the wilderness experience.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Opportunities for primitive dispersed recreation include hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, camping, and photography.

The predominant recreational activity in the WSA is travel by foot and horseback between the Wolf Creek Trailhead and many other sites in the Carson Iceberg Wilderness at the estimated rate of 400 visitor days per year. Thus the WSA provides access to still greater opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation, including mountain climbing and long-distance wilderness travel.

Special Features

The most noteworthy feature of the WSA is the East Fork of the Carson River. The river flowing freely through timbered canyon slopes is the most distinct physical feature and offers additional opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation primarily fishing.

LAND OWNERSHIP

General public access to the 550-acre WSA is possible only by hiking or horseback riding 2 miles through the Toiyabe National Forest Carson Iceberg Wilderness from the trailhead at Wolf Creek Meadows. It is possible for a few private landowners, and anyone they grant permission, to drive to and along the eastern side of the WSA through private land in Bagley Valley, but the general public is locked out of Bagley Valley at a gate 5 miles north of the WSA at State Highway 89. In the WSA, there are no inholdings of private land or private lands which would be made inholdings by adding the WSA acreage to the existing Carson Iceberg Wilderness.

RECREATION

Recreation activities in the WSA primarily include hiking and horseback riding. No motorized activities occur in the WSA; public access is available only through existing wilderness, and the character of the land otherwise lacks suitability for motorized travel due to steep slopes and timber. The WSA is part of a larger area which the Bureau has designated to limit motorized vehicle use to designated routes through the Walker Resource Area RMP. The road which forms the northeastern boundary of the WSA would be a designated route. Motorized use of this route is made only by a few private landowners and others to whom they grant permission.

About one mile of maintained backcountry trail traverses the middle of the WSA. 400 visitor days of trail use occur mainly from spring through autumn and are limited by snowfall and snowmelt. Forest Service officials project use to increase to 640 visitor days over a period of five years and then level off. Backcountry use is projected to increase ten percent annually due to the recency of wilderness designation.

An estimated 100 visitor days of fishing occur within the WSA during the season from late April through mid-November. It is projected to increase to 160 visitor days over a period of five years and then level off.

An estimated 15 visitor days of hunting for deer in late September and upland game all fall occur in the WSA. It is expected to increase to 24 visitor days over a period of five years and then level off.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Scenic quality is rated high in the Carson Iceberg WSA due to the appealing combinations of rugged landforms, varied vegetative types, clear flowing water, naturalness, and adjacent alpine background scenery. The immediate river canyon is rocky and winding through the mile and a half of the East Fork of the Carson River. Pockets of meadow and riparian shrubs and trees occur near the river and side streams. Timbered slopes rise above the river on both sides, interspersed with occasional openings of sagebrush and rock outcroppings. The higher, often snow-covered peaks of the Sierra Nevada within the adjacent Carson Iceberg Wilderness, are visible from several vantage points along the Carson River Trail.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Seasonal prehistoric Washoe Indian hunting, fishing, and travel likely occurred on or near the East Fork of the Carson River as well as in the upland areas.

Logging historically occurred within the WSA as indicated by scattered, decaying tree stumps throughout the second-growth forest.

No specific cultural sites are recorded within the WSA, but both prehistoric and historic sites would not be unexpected.

WILDLIFE

The East Fork of the Carson River contains rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish, and sculpins. Lahontan cutthroat and Paiute cutthroat are two threatened subspecies of trout inhabiting tributaries of the East Fork of the Carson River; both can occasionally be found in the river within the WSA.

Mule deer inhabit the area from spring through fall and are expected to fawn in the area. Mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and black bears are not uncommon. River otter and mink are found near the river.

The California Department of Fish and Game recorded a 1967 sighting of a wolverine in Snowslide Canyon about one mile south of the WSA and presumes that the species still inhabits the vicinity. The State of California lists the wolverine as a threatened species and gives it full protection. The species is a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered, pending further data.

Waterfowl, including mallards and common merganser, are seasonal inhabitants. Raptors common to the area include Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Kestrel, and Cooper's Hawk.

VEGETATION

The Carson Iceberg WSA supports a broad diversity of vegetation within a small area. Most of the area is timbered with predominantly Jeffrey pine in association with white fir, lodgepole pine, western juniper, pinyon pine, and groves of aspen. Species in the understory and openings include mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, big sagebrush, low sagebrush, and riparian meadows. California Department of Fish and Game has no record of any rare, threatened, or endangered plant species in the area.

TIMBER RESOURCES

Timber stands were logged in the area historically, and the second-growth forest is now established at light to moderate stocking rates. Sites have marginal to fair potential for producing commercial timber. The entire WSA is administratively withdrawn from the commercial forest base due to fragility of soils immediately upslope from the East Fork of the Carson River and due to the low feasibility of logging.

SOILS AND WATERSHED RESOURCES

This area is characterized by steep wooded hillsides and bisected by the Carson River. The major soil series are the Bulring variant and the Bluebell soil series, which are moderately deep (20-40") and well drained, with slopes ranging from 30-75%. Small areas of Animas variant soils occur along the Carson River and in Silver King Valley. These soils are very deep and poorly drained, with slopes of 0-5%.

At this writing, the watersheds in this area are in stable condition. Erosion potential of the Bulring variant soil, however, is moderate to high. As this soil covers 60-65% of the area, any significant loss of vegetative cover may result in accelerated erosion with associated runoff and sedimentation problems.

Carson Iceberg WSA is part of the headwaters for the East Fork of the Carson River. The river flows about 1.4 miles and can be classified as Class "A" water. (Class "A" waters are those located where there is little human habitation, no industrial development or intensive agriculture, and where the watershed is relatively undisturbed by man's activities.

Soil Classification:

Animas variant -- Fine, montmorillonitic argillic cryoboralls.

Bluebell variant -- Loamy-skeletal, mixed argic pachic cryoboralls.

Bulring variant -- Fine-loamy, mixed, frigid pachic argixerolls.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

In 1988, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines published Open-File Report 88-273 on the mineral resources in the study area, based on 1987 mineral surveys. The report concludes, "No resources were identified in the study area, but the results of these surveys indicate that the area has low resource potential for gold in placer deposits and for silver in epithermal type deposits."

Nearly all of the lands involved in the WSA (85-90%) are underlain by Tertiary volcanics. A small portion of the southwestern corner is underlain by Mesozoic granitic rocks. A Quaternary alluvial deposit butts against the southeastern boundary of the WSA.

The nature of the geology within the WSA does not suggest any likelihood for the existence of oil and gas or geothermal resources. The potential for existence of economic deposits of leasable minerals is low.

The WSA does not contain any unique salable mineral commodities. The andesitic breccias, tuffs, and flows would generally be suitable for native borrow ("fill") applications. This nonspecification use could be matched by almost any other material, making proximity to point-of-use the only consideration. There is no anticipated market in or near the WSA and thus no value for salable mineral commodities. Therefore, the potential for presence of economic deposits of salable commodities is low.

As of January 13, 1988, there are no unpatented mining claims within the WSA. There are, however, 73 claims within a 3-mile radius north and west of the WSA--some of them in the sections immediately north of the WSA--in the same rock type prevailing across most of the study area. Moreover, several millions of dollars worth of gold and silver--with additional revenues derived from sulfur, copper, lead, zinc, mercury, antimony, arsenic, and mineral specimens--have been mined from altered and silicified zones in the same rock type (andesitic flows, tuffs, breccias), principally in the Mogul mining district about 7 miles northwest of the WSA.

Although there are no known occurrences of uranium, thorium, or related radioactive minerals in the WSA, California's largest uranium mine is located 20-25 miles south of the WSA, where uranium minerals have been mined from shales in andesitic breccias and agglomerates.

The WSA will remain open to mineral entry subject to the BLM's Interim Wilderness Management Policy until the WSA is either officially designated as wilderness or returned to multiple use. It is possible that claims staked before potential wilderness designation could demonstrate a valid discovery which would result in surface disturbance through mining, even after the area is designated wilderness. However, any surface disturbance would be conditioned by an accepted plan of operation and constrained by stipulations to prevent impairment of the wilderness character.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

The entire WSA is part of the Bagley Valley Allotment. Cattle use an estimated 50 AUMs of forage, mainly along the East Fork of the Carson River in the summer. No range improvements exist, and none are needed now or in the future. Present forage production appears to be near potential, and the trend of range condition is upward. Utilization of forage by livestock varies from slight to moderate.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section focuses directly on the issues identified through the scoping process. The environmental impacts of each alternative are described issue by issue. The environmental impacts of these alternatives on the area's other resources have also been analyzed and have been found to be insignificant.

Because of the general nature of this analysis and the lack of numerical and statistical information regarding the area's resources, impacts in this section are often expressed in relative terms. For the purpose of this analysis the meanings of these terms are as follows:

- Negligible or slight impact - the degree of anticipated environmental impact is considered less than minor.
- Minor impact - comparatively unimportant; in terms of the area's wildlife resources, a minor impact is one affecting a specific group of individuals of a population in a localized area for one generation or less; the integrity of the regional population is not likely to be affected.
- Moderate impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a change in the abundance of a resource or its distribution. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of a portion of the regional or local population would change over more than one generation, but would not affect the integrity of the regional population as a whole.
- Major impact - an effect sufficient enough to cause a decline in the abundance of a resource or a change in distribution of a resource. In terms of the area's wildlife, the abundance or distribution of the regional or local population of a species would decline beyond which natural recruitment would not likely return that population to its former level within several generations.

PROPOSED ACTION (ALL WILDERNESS)

550 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation
0 Acres Nonwilderness

The entire 550 acres within the Carson Iceberg WSA will be recommended for wilderness designation under the Proposed Action. This Section 202 WSA will be managed in conjunction with the adjacent USFS Carson Iceberg Wilderness Area to maintain existing wilderness values.

The primary concerns under the Proposed Action relate to the long-term protection of wilderness values within the WSA.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

Wilderness values within the 550-acre Carson Iceberg WSA will receive special legislative protection by wilderness designation. Wilderness values within the Carson Iceberg WSA will be retained. These values include naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and the special features associated with the East Fork of the Carson River. There are no current uses or projected activities that will be affected by wilderness designation. The only current uses of the WSA are nonmotorized recreation use and livestock grazing.

Overall recreation use will increase from the present 515 visitor days to approximately 824 visitor days over a 5-year period. This use is primarily related to hiking along one mile of the backcountry Carson River Trail that traverses the WSA. The projected recreation use also includes fishing (160 visitor days) and limited hunting (24 visitor days). An overall increase of approximately 309 visitor days will have a negligible effect on solitude along the trail. However, there will be no effect on opportunities for solitude within the remaining portion of the WSA.

Livestock grazing within the WSA will remain at the current estimated 50 AUMs with no increase or decrease in use levels anticipated. There are no existing improvements to maintain and no new projects proposed. There will be no change in the existing wilderness values as a result of continued livestock grazing in the WSA.

There is no mineral exploration or development currently within the WSA and based on the no mining claims and the lack of known mineral deposits within the WSA, no valid existing rights are anticipated that will permit mining activities under wilderness designation. Therefore there will be no mineral exploration or development activities that will lead to impacts on wilderness values.

There are also no timber management actions for the WSA, which is currently administratively withdrawn from harvest to protect water quality, soils, and watershed. Timber harvest will be precluded under wilderness designation, therefore there will be no impacts to wilderness values.

Conclusion:

Wilderness designation of the Carson Iceberg WSA will result in a slight positive benefit for wilderness values. Long-term protection from unanticipated future actions that could result in potential adverse impacts will be provided. An increase of approximately 309 visitor days of nonmotorized recreation use for a total of 824 visitor days will have a negligible impact on opportunities for solitude within the vicinity of the Carson River Trail. Livestock grazing use will continue at the existing 50 AUMs with no change in wilderness values anticipated.

Adverse Impacts Which Cannot Be Avoided

There are no unavoidable adverse impacts anticipated. The only noticeable change in use is a projected increase of 309 visitor days of nonmotorized

recreation use for a total of 824 visitor days. There are no other activities projected for the WSA other than continued livestock grazing at the existing level of 50 AUMs.

Relationship Between Local Short-term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity

Under the Proposed Action, wilderness designation will restrict future development options within the 550-acre WSA. However, all current short-term uses will continue. Timber harvesting which is prohibited administratively through land use decisions to maintain scenic values, will continue to be precluded under wilderness designation. No mineral exploration or development is anticipated due to the low mineral development potential projected throughout the WSA. Therefore, long-term productivity will be maintained and slightly enhanced.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Due to the low levels of nonmotorized recreation use and the continued 50 AUMs of livestock grazing use no irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources are anticipated. Additionally, there are no mineral development activities or other surface-disturbing actions anticipated, therefore, no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources is expected.

NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

0 Acres Recommended for Wilderness Designation 550 Acres Nonwilderness

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative, none of the 550 acres within the Carson Iceberg WSA would be recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The WSA would be managed for multiple use in accordance with the Walker RMP and would not be included in the adjacent USFS designated Carson Iceberg Wilderness.

The primary concern under this alternative relates to the long-term protection of wilderness values.

Impacts on Wilderness Values

None of the 550 acres in the Carson Iceberg WSA would be designated wilderness under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative. Wilderness values within the WSA would not receive any of the special legislative protection provided by wilderness designation. The wilderness values of the Section 202 WSA include naturalness, opportunities for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation, and the special features associated with the East Fork of the Carson River. These wilderness values are enhanced when considered in conjunction with the adjacent USFS Carson Iceberg Wilderness Area.

While the WSA would not be subjected to the restrictions of wilderness designation, there would be little difference in the management actions and projected impacts on wilderness values between this alternative and the Proposed Action. As described under the Proposed Action, nonmotorized vacation would increase approximately 309 visitor days for a total of 824 visitor days. This increase would have a negligible effect on solitude along the one mile of the Carson River Trail within the WSA. Although there would be no wilderness related restriction on motorized vehicle use, the Walker RMP limits use to designated routes. Within the Carson Iceberg WSA there are no designated routes, therefore, no vehicle use or related impacts would occur. Livestock grazing use would continue at the existing 50 AUMs with no facilities projected. There would be no change in the existing wilderness values as a result of the continued livestock grazing. The WSA would continue to be administratively withdrawn from timber harvest to protect water quality, soils, and watershed.

Under the No Wilderness/No Action Alternative mineral exploration and development would be permitted within the WSA. However, due to the low potential for mineral occurrence and development, no mineral activities are projected within a planning projection of 15-20 years. Therefore, it is unlikely that wilderness values within the WSA would be impacted.

Conclusion:

There would be no significant impacts to wilderness values since there would be no projected surface-disturbing activities within the WSA, including motorized recreation use, timber harvest and mineral development. An increase of approximately 309 visitor days of nonmotorized recreation use would have a negligible impact on opportunities for solitude. Continued livestock grazing use of 50 AUMs would not result in any anticipated change in wilderness values.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS

Consultation and coordination with the public and governmental agencies was a planned and integral part of the management alternatives analyzed in the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It has continued through the development of the final Environmental Impact Statement. Formal and informal consultation began in 1978 with the initial inventory of public lands to determine their wilderness potential.

A Federal Register notice, news release, and scoping letter mailed to over 1,250 organizations, agencies, and individuals in December, 1986, announced the initiation of plan amendments for the Coast/Valley RMP and South Sierra Foothills MFP in the Bakersfield District, California; Alturas RMP and Tuleadad/Homecamp MFP in the Susanville District, California; East Mendocino MFP and Redding Land Use Plan in the Ukiah District, California; and the Walker RMP in the Carson City District, Nevada. This also initiated the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), invited comments and solicited suggestions on issues to be discussed and analyzed for each of the eight Section 202 WSAs to be studied. Oral and written comments received throughout the planning process were used in the development of the Proposed Actions and alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS.

On October 15, 1987, a Federal Register notice indicated that the draft EIS had been prepared, announced review locations, identified the times, dates, and locations of the public hearings for the DEIS, and included preliminary recommendations. At the same time, the DEIS was sent to individuals and organizations on each of the Districts' wilderness mailing lists. Distribution of the DEIS to the California State Clearinghouse, to local, state, and federal agencies, elected officials, and other interested parties also occurred at this time.

The October 15, 1987, Notice of Availability for the DEIS was amended by a November 19, 1987, Federal Register notice which identified a review extension to February 15, 1988, resulting from a later EPA filing date than was previously anticipated.

Three public hearings were scheduled to assure opportunity for public involvement. These were held in Cedarville, December 1, 1987; Ukiah, December 2, 1987; and Bakersfield, December 9, 1987. The public hearings were officially noticed in the Federal Register on Thursday, October 15, 1987. Additionally, each District hosting the public hearings made efforts to inform local interest groups using mailings and newspaper announcements.

Public hearings were held in Ukiah, California, on December 2, 1987, in Cedarville, California, on December 1, 1987, and in Bakersfield, California, on December 9, 1987. Hearing details and comment summaries appear in the Results from the Public Review on the Draft EIS section later in this chapter.

This final EIS has been prepared following the review of the draft EIS, public hearings, and upon receipt of written comments. For those Section 202 WSAs recommended suitable for wilderness designation, the final EIS along with a wilderness study report outlining the agency's Proposed Action will be reviewed by the BLM Director and the Secretary of the Interior, who will file the FEIS and make a recommendation to the President. Subsequently, the President has up to two years to make a final recommendation to Congress. Congress has the sole authority to designate an area as wilderness. Until Congress decides whether or not to designate any of these areas as wilderness, the WSAs will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (Department of Interior, December 1979, as amended 1983).

For those Section 202 WSAs not recommended for wilderness designation, the the State Director has the authority under FLPMA to release those public lands from wilderness study and return them to multiple use management in accordance with existing land use plans. A separate FEIS is prepared for these WSAs with a 30-day public review period. A Draft Record of Decision will subsequently be filed for a 60-day Governor's Review, after which the Record of Decision will be completed. Multiple use management may begin 30 days after the State Director signs the Record of Decision.

RESULTS FROM THE PUBLIC REVIEW

Three formal public hearings were scheduled for review of the California 202 Wilderness Study Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The hearings were officially noticed in the Federal Register on Thursday, October 15, 1987, and scheduled for Cedarville, December 1; Ukiah, December 2; and Bakersfield, December 9. Each District hosting the public hearings also made efforts to inform local interest groups with mailings and newspaper announcements.

A formal public hearing on the draft EIS was conducted December 2, 1987, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ukiah District Office in Ukiah, California. Ten individuals (not including hearing and BLM personnel) attended the hearing and four testified. A representative from the Susanville District presided as Hearing Officer, and a court reporter recorded the proceedings verbatim. The full hearing transcripts may be reviewed in the BLM Ukiah Office.

Some general comments made at the public hearing included one statement about the need to protect stream habitats, especially if logging is allowed. Another expressed concern about endangered plant species. A third comment addressed the benefit of protecting the areas as wilderness, even if only as a buffer or border to existing wilderness areas.

Two comments were specific to the Domeland WSA. One felt that issues of ecological and scientific significance should be examined more closely. Another stated that the Domeland WSA provides protection from erosion into the South Fork of the Kern River.

The final comments expressed concern that old growth timber be protected and preserved in the Big Butte WSA. There was further concern about stream and water quality in the Big Butte WSA if logging is allowed.

Neither the December 1 hearing in Cedarville nor the December 9 hearing in Bakersfield had any attendance by member of the public.

Consultation With Other Agencies

Throughout the preparation of the draft EIS close coordination was maintained with the adjacent National Forests upon which these WSAs depend for wilderness characteristics. These included the Los Padres National Forest, the Mendocino National Forest, the Modoc National Forest, the Sequoia National Forest, the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and the Toiyabe National Forest. In November, 1986, meetings were held with representatives of the individual National Forests, as well as the Regional Office. The meetings resulted in identifying the Forest Service's concerns regarding each Section 202 WSA and the consequences of wilderness designation or nondesignation of these public lands. There were no instances where the Forest Service projected any potential negative impacts on the lands under their jurisdiction as a result of the BLM's recommendations for the Section 202 WSAs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFS) was consulted to determine the presence of threatened and endangered species within the individual WSAs. During informal discussions in March, 1986, it became apparent that within on WSAs where endangered species are present, FWS believes that wilderness designation or nondesignation would not, in itself, result in adverse impacts. However, prior to implementing any management actions that may affect threatened or endangered species, Section 7 consultation would be required.

The California State Historic Preservation Officer was consulted in regards to potential cultural resource values within the WSAs and potential eligibility for designation on the National Register of Historic Places.

CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS

FLPMA requires that BLM plans be as consistent as possible with the plans of other agencies, while Federal laws, policies, and regulations are also considered. The plans of cities, counties, the state, and other Federal agencies were considered in the preparation of this EIS.

The Proposed Action for the South Warner Contiguous 202 WSA is consistent with Modoc County's General Plan. During the public review period, the county was given the opportunity to comment on the designation of the south Warner contiguous 202 WSA as partial wilderness, and found this designation consistent with county guidelines.

The Proposed Action for the Carson Iceberg 202 is consistent with Alpine County's General Plan. During the public review period, the county was given the opportunity to comment on the designation of the Domeland WSA as wilderness. The area had been designated a future wilderness area by Alpine County.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Copies of the EIS are furnished to numerous public libraries throughout the study area for public review and reference. Also, copies are widely distributed to those expressing interest. In addition to individuals and others receiving a copy of the draft EIS as a result of mailing lists or separate requests, the following agencies and organizations have been requested to review the document. Those who commented are indicated by an asterisk (*).

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Department of Agriculture

*U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco

Los Padres National Forest

Mendocino National Forest

Modoc National Forest

Sequoia National Forest

*Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Toiyabe National Forest

U.S. Soil Conservation Service

Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

*Bureau of Mines

Bureau of Reclamation

*National Park Service

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Geological Survey

Department of Transportation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Aviation Administration

*U.S. Air Force

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Douglas Bosco

Congressman Charles Pashayan

Congressman Norm Shumway

Congressman William Thomas

U.S. Senate

Senator Alan Cranston

Senator Pete Wilson

STATE LEGISLATURE

California State Assembly
Assemblyman Eric Seastrand
Assemblyman Bill Jones
Assemblyman Trice Harvey
Assemblyman Philip Wyman
Assemblyman Stan Statham
Assemblyman Norman Walters
Assemblyman Dan Hauser
Assemblyman Wally Herger
California State Senate
Senator Rose Ann Vuich
Senator Donald Rogers
Senator Kenneth Maddy
Senator John T. Doolittle
Senator John Garamendi

STATE AGENCIES

Office of the Governor
California Office of Planning and Research (State Clearinghouse)
California State Historic Preservation Officer
*California Resources Agency
Department of Water Resources
Department of Forestry
Department of Fish and Game
Native American Heritage Commission
Department of Parks and Recreation
State Lands Commission
Division of Mines and Geology
Division of Oil and Gas
Water Resources Control Board
Energy Resources, Conservation and Development Commission

COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

County Supervisors
Alpine County Board of Supervisors
Kern County Board of Supervisors
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Modoc County Board of Supervisors
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
Tehama County Board of Supervisors
Trinity County Board of Supervisors
Tulare County Board of Supervisors
County Planning Departments
Alpine County Planning Department
*Kern County Department of Planning and Development Services
Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services
Modoc County Planning Department
San Luis Obispo County Environmental Coordinator

Tehama County Planning Department
Trinity County Planning Department
Tulare County Building and Planning Department

INTERESTED GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS

Environmental

- *Sierra Club
- Cahto Coalition
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- *California Native Plant Society
- *Eagle Lake Audubon Society
- California Desert Coalition
- Carson River Conservation Fund
- Nevada Wildlife Federation
- *California Wilderness Coalition
- National Audubon Association
- California Wildlife Federation
- Wildhorse Sanctuary
- Friends of Plumas Wilderness
- The Wilderness Society
- Northern California Wildlife Conservation
- *Defenders of Wildlife
- *Northern Californians for Wilderness
- Kern River Wildlife Sanctuary

Livestock

- Lassen County Cattlemen's Association
- California Cattlemen's Association

Mining/Energy

- Coastal Mining Company
- Homestake Mining Company
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Southern California Edison Company
- Cooksley Geophysics
- Nevada mining Association
- Snyder Oil Company
- *Chevron
- California Mining Association
- Petro-Lewis Corporation
- Western Regional Gas Association

Recreational

- *American Motorcycle Association
- *California Association of 4WD Clubs, Inc.
- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

Forestry

- Simpson Timber Company
- Western Timber Services
- International Woodworkers of America
- Western Timber Association
- Louisiana Pacific Corporation

Other

Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce
California Farm Bureau
Kern Valley Resource Conservation District
Pacific Coast Fishermen's Association
San Luis Obispo County Historical Museum

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS

A total of 105 interested citizens, federal, state, and local agencies, and private organizations submitted comments on the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement postmarked on or before February 15, 1988. The written comments and the hearing transcripts will be sent, along with this Final EIS and the Wilderness Study Report, to the President and on to Congress.

In preparation of the final EIS, all comments, including those from the hearing transcripts, were reviewed and considered. Comments that presented new data, questioned findings and analysis, or raised questions or issues relating to the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action or alternatives were responded to. General comments favoring a specific alternative have been noted and considered, but required no specific response. In addition, comments addressing items outside of the scope of this EIS were not responded to.

Comment letters included in this final EIS for the South Warner Contiguous WSA and the Carson Iceberg WSA were extracted from the comments letters received in response to the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Of the 105 letters received, 63 addressed the two WSAs being recommended as suitable for partial or all-wilderness designation. Of the 63 letters concerning these WSAs, 14 presented substantive comments and received responses. These letters and their responses can be found in the back of this document. There were also 49 letters which expressed either a general comment favoring a specific alternative or were non-specific in focus. These letters did not receive responses, but a number of them have been reproduced in this document as examples.

Comment letters are numbered in the order they were received but are arranged by agencies (Federal, State, and local), organizations, and individuals. Specific comments and related responses are identified by the number of the comment letter, and the number of the comment in that letter.

Letter

Federal Agencies and Appointments

16 U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines
18 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service,
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
19 U.S. Department of the Air Force, Regional Civil Engineer,
Western Region
21 U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service-
Western Region
29 U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service-
Great Basin Complex
100 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service-Pacific
Southwest Region
105 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
106 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service-Pacific
Southwest Region

State Agencies

12 California Regional Water Quality Control Board
31 The Resources Agency of California

Organizations

03 American Motorcyclist Association
34 Upper El Earth First!
65 California Association of 4WD Clubs
75 Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter
88 Eagle Lake Audubon Society
91 California Wilderness Coalition
92 Northeast Californians for Wilderness
101 Defenders of Wildlife

Individuals and Corporations

04 Sanford L. Werner
54 George Bridges
67 Sophie Shepard
68 Tina Hodge
71 William C. Hodge
82 Marjorie Sill
94 Hollis Lenderking
96 J.A. Ferrara



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF MINES

WESTERN FIELD OPERATIONS CENTER
EAST 360 3RD AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, WASHINGTON 99002

November 24, 1987

Memorandum

To: Ed Hastey, State Director--California State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, California

From: Supervisor--Mineral Issues Involvement Section, Branch of Engineering and Economic Analysis

Subject: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)

The potential for mineral resources has been considered low for the South Warner Contiguous WSA, and no mining claims exist in that area. However, we are concerned about the effects on mineral/energy resource development in the 550 acres proposed for wilderness designation in the Carson-Iceberg WSA. Mining activity within the region indicates there is moderate potential for locatable minerals (page 2H-4) and that minerals occur in a similar rock-type just outside of the study boundary (page 2H-16). We suggest a multiple use classification can be justified for this area.

Your classification is based on the assumption that an absence of mining claims and leases in the Carson-Iceberg area indicates a lack of significant economic deposits of mineral and energy resources (page 2H-4). "The absence of evidence is not evidence for absence." Probably the lack of mining is a direct result of adjacent Forest Service wilderness which discourages exploration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

D'Arcy P. Banister
D'Arcy P. Banister

16

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Yolla Bolly Ranger District
Platina, CA 95676

18

Reply to: 1950

Date: December 10, 1987

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

The following is our comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas. Our comment is specific to the Yolla-Bolly WSA (CA-030-501) which is located in Tehama County adjacent to the Yolla Bolly Ranger District of the Shasta-Trinity National Forests.

We are in agreement with the proposed action of non-wilderness designation for this WSA. This action is prudent based on its small size, lack of resources, and the remote location.

[Signature]
PETER H. HARRIS
District Ranger

3-9

16.1



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEER, WESTERN REGION (AF/RCR)
830 BANCROFT STREET - ROOM 1318
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111-2278

19

DEC 14 1987

ROVP (Type/556-0557)

California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

1. We appreciate the opportunity to review the subject DEIS and offer the following comments:

a. As shown on the attached map, three of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) evaluated in your DEIS (Big Butte WSA, Yolla-Bolly WSA, and Carson-Iceberg WSA) are subject to military overflights in their vicinity in the form of low-level training missions. Inasmuch as low-level overflights do have the potential to disrupt the solitude and naturalness of areas directly under their flight paths, we recommend you include consideration of such activities in your discussion and decision-making process. Within that context, we further recommend you consider location, altitude, and frequency of flights.

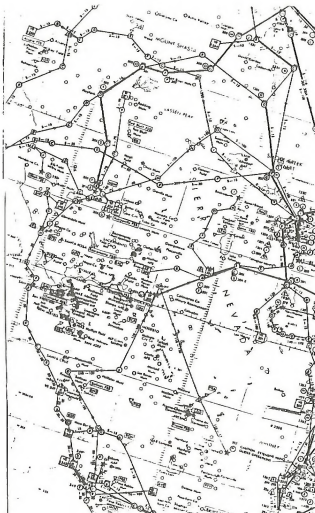
b. Areas which are appropriate for military overflights and low altitude training routes are becoming increasingly rare. In selecting overflight training routes, the Air Force must consider mission requirements and fuel costs as well as environmental constraints. Ideally, training routes are located within areas which: are relatively isolated, have diverse topography and minimal commercial activity, maintain sparse human populations, and contain lands under federal jurisdiction. It is obvious that these characteristics are also compatible to a large degree with potential wilderness areas. Therefore, even though several of the areas being proposed are subject to air training activities, the Air Force generally supports designation of wilderness areas provided such designations, and subsequent management thereof, do not restrict use of the airspace for military overflights.

2. We hope these comments are useful in your planning process. If we can be of assistance in any manner, please contact the undersigned or Mr. Michael Tye at (415) 556-0557.

Phillip E. Lammie
PHILLIP E. LAMMIE, Chief
Environmental Planning Division

1 Atch: Training Routes Map

cc: AF/LEEVX (Ward)
AFREP/PAA



3-10

19.1



United States Department of the Interior

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MGMT

21

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WESTERN REGION

450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 14063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

Dec 28 12 24 PM '87

SAC, Reno, Nevada

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7619 (NR-RP)

December 23, 1987

Memorandum

To: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Sacramento, California
From: ^{ACTING} Regional Director, Western Region
Subject: California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas: Garcia Mountain, Rockhouse, Doneland, Machesna, South Warner, Yolly Bolly, Big Butte and Carson-Isenberg.

At your request, we have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the subject Wilderness Study Areas and have no comments to offer. We appreciate the opportunity to review.

W. H. H. H. H. H.

cc:
WASO 762



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

GREAT BASIN COMPLEX

4600 Kietzke Lane, Bldg. C
Reno, Nevada 89502

29

January 22, 1988

Memorandum

To: Director, Bureau of Land Management
Sacramento, California
From: Complex Manager, Reno, Nevada
Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Wilderness Study Areas

We have reviewed the Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing impacts of designating or not designating 10,824 acres in eight Wilderness Study areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The complete document was not submitted to us. However, none of the proposed areas lies within or abuts the State of Nevada. We have no comment on the proposed action.

Richard J. Hawane

cc: Bureau of Land Management, Susanville, California
and Carson City, Nevada



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FOREST
SERVICE

PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
REGION

REGIONAL OFFICE
630 SANSOPE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

100

Caring for the Land and Serving People

REPLY TO: 1920-A

DATE: JAN 29 1988

Mr. Ed Haste, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Haste:

This letter is in regard to comments solicited on the draft environmental impact statement for California, Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas. The DEIS was prepared for the Garcia Mountain, Hookhouse, Dowland, Moheena, South Werner Contiguous, Tolly Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson-Iceberg WSAs.

The map on page 2E-7 for the South Werner Contiguous area needs to show the South Werner Wilderness boundary as it was designated in 1964. The boundary of the wilderness has been shown on some maps, including ours, as being the same as the National Forest boundary. Actually, several small parcels of land were excluded from wilderness on the eastern side of the National Forest. One exclusion is adjacent to the Cottonwood Parcel, which is recommended for wilderness management in the DEIS. This area is used for vehicular access to an irrigation system on Forest Service land. We suggest a corridor be left through the Cottonwood parcel so that the existing use can continue. Also, the wilderness boundary extends further north in Section 23 (adjacent to the Granger Parcel) than is shown on the page 2E-7. A copy of the wilderness map that shows the correct boundary is enclosed.

There is an existing fence between the Modoc National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands in the Granger Parcel area that separates the livestock of two grazing permittees. Its presence should be mentioned in the EIS. The fence will need to remain in place if the wilderness proposal is accepted to prevent livestock intermingling.

Sincerely,

Joyce Murakawa

JOYCE MURAKAWA
Regional Planning & Budget Officer

Enclosure



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
84 FEB 1988

105

Ed Haste, State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825

Dear Mr. Haste:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled CALIFORNIA SECTION 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS; Bakersfield, Susanville, Ukiah and Carson City Districts; Counties of San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Kern, Modoc, Tehama, Mendocino, Trinity and Alpine Counties, California.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to review and comment on this DEIS.

EPA supports the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed action to recommend 1,187 acres of the South Werner Contiguous Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and 550 acres of the Carson Iceberg WSA as wilderness. EPA believes that air quality and water quality are best protected under wilderness status and requests that this be stated in BLM's state-wide wilderness recommendation document.

EPA also appreciates BLM's discussion on water quality in various sections of the DEIS. For example, page 2E-5 discusses the impacts on water quality and riparian habitat in the South Werner WSA as a result of overgrazing by livestock; and page 2H-13 discusses the importance of the recreational fishery of the East Fork of the Carson River in the Carson Iceberg WSA.

We have rated this DEIS as Category EC-2, Environmental Concerns, insufficient information (see the attached "Summary of Rating Definitions and Follow-up Actions"). We have environmental concerns because the individual and cumulative effects of BLM-authorized activities that would be allowed under non-wilderness designation (future mineral/energy resource developments, timber harvesting, offroad vehicles use, etc.) have the potential to degrade water quality and riparian habitats.

105.2

24 FEB 1988

EPA to BLM, page 2.

In 1987 the United States Congress amended the Clean Water Act to address non-point sources of pollution. Section 319 of P.L. 100-4 (Water Quality Act of 1987, Feb. 4, 1987) requires States to assess non-point source pollution problems, develop a non-point source pollution management program, and implement controls to improve water quality. Identified control measures should be implemented on BLM lands to address non-point source water pollution problems.

Close coordination by BLM with the State Water Resources Control Board and the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Boards will help to ensure that BLM's management plans (e.g., wilderness, resource area) are consistent with California's non-point source management program. For your reference, a copy of P.L. 100-4 is enclosed, with the new Section 319 paperclipped and highlighted in yellow. Also enclosed is a section-by-section analysis of the Water Quality Act of 1987 prepared by EPA's Washington, D.C. office.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send us two copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement when it is officially filed with the EPA Headquarters office. If you have any questions, please call me at (415) 974-8083 (PTS 454-8083), or have your staff contact Mr. David Tomovic at (415) 974-8177 (PTS 454-8177).

Sincerely,

Deanna M. Wieman
Deanna M. Wieman, Director
Office of External Affairs

Enclosures (3)

SUMMARY OF RATING DEFINITIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION*

24 FEB 1988

Environmental Impact of the Action

ID--Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC--Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

ED--Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

ES--Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality, public health or welfare. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1--Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2--Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3--Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

*From EPA Manual 1640, "Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment."



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

FOREST
SERVICE

PACIFIC
SOUTHWEST
REGION

REGIONAL OFFICE
630 SANSONE STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

106

REPLY TO: 1920-4

DATE: APR 28 1988

Mr. Ed Hasty
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hasty:

As you know from our previous coordination meetings, we did not have many comments on the wilderness study for the eight California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas. We do not find any conflict with the management of our lands and the Proposed Action Alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on these areas. In addition, the recommendation of non-wilderness for the Garcia WSA would aid in manageability of our adjacent area as recommended for wilderness in the Los Padres Draft Forest Plan.

An enclosure addresses our editorial comments.

Sincerely,

PAUL F. PARKER
Regional Forester

Enclosure

California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Big Butte WSA: The rationale for the proposed action should reflect the considerable debate and thought that went into Congress' decision on a wilderness boundary during years of considering a California Wilderness Bill. In determining the wilderness boundaries, Congress looked at the entire roadless area. The current boundary is defined by creeks and ridges, which are recognizable to wilderness visitors and are more easily located on the ground than are section lines.

106.1 Page 20-5 says that the boundary of the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness was established by the Forest Service. Congress establishes wilderness boundaries and the sentence should be changed to reflect this.

106.2 **Garcia WSA:** Page 2A-4 says that the Los Padres NF has indicated a lack of wilderness values and topographic continuity with their proposed Garcia Wilderness. "Topographic continuity" seems open to varying interpretations. We believe saying the configuration of two projecting "fingers" would decrease manageability if the Garcia area is designated wilderness would be a clearer statement.

Dome Land: Page 20-5 says that the steep, rocky slopes do not add to or enhance the wilderness character of the Dome Land Wilderness. The statement leaves a question "Do the slopes detract from the character?" If it neither adds nor detracts, the sentence should probably be rephrased to cover both possibilities or removed entirely.

Also, the DEIS says that the Sequoia NF is concerned about the potential for increased trespass to Dome Land Wilderness if the WSA is designated. The area of potential trespass concern is for those low-lying lands nearest roads. Potential trespass is not anticipated for the steeper, upland slopes.

Machena WSA: Again, as for the Big Butte WSA, Congress determined the boundaries for the adjacent wilderness, and in doing so looked at the entire WSA. The rationale should reference Congress' considerable thought on boundaries when considering the California Wilderness Bill of 1984.

106.3 Page 20-5 says that the 80-acre parcel was considered by the Forest Service when the California Wilderness Bill was considered. We cannot document this statement.

Rockhouse WSA: Page 2D-4 says the Sequoia National Forest has indicated that the WSA does not possess wilderness or resource values that will enhance the Dome Land Wilderness. Again, we wonder if a part of the sentence was omitted about detractions (See discussion under Dome Land WSA).

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CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LAHONTAN REGION

2002 LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD

P. O. BOX 9428

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA 95731-2428

(916) 544-3481



November 19, 1987

Mr. Ed Hastey, State Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

REVIEW OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS,
CALIFORNIA SECTION 202 WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Dear Mr. Hastey:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this document. The project involves recommendations to the President and Congress as to all wilderness, non-wilderness, or partial wilderness designations for eight study areas (WSA's) throughout California, which adjoin U.S. Forest Service wilderness areas. Only two of the study areas, South Warner Contiguous WSA and Carson-Iceberg WSA, are within the Lahontan Regional Board's jurisdiction.

The proposed action for the South Warner Contiguous WSA is the designation of 1,167 of the total 4,500 acres as wilderness, with the remainder to continue to be managed under existing plans. Because of the current low intensity of grazing, recreation, and resource management activities, there appears to be little difference in potential water quality impacts of wilderness versus nonwilderness designation. We would like to be informed of any future proposed changes in the management of the non-wilderness areas which could affect water quality.

The Carson-Iceberg WSA is a 550 acre parcel which includes a segment of the upper East Fork Carson River, and one mile of the Carson River Trail which provides access to the Forest Service wilderness area. The Environmental Impact Statement recommends all wilderness designation for this parcel. Although continued non-wilderness management under current policies would preclude logging and motorized vehicle access, and would probably not result in mining since mineral potential is considered low, we feel that the

Mr. Ed Hastey

-2-

wilderness designation will provide maximum long term protection for water quality and beneficial uses, including recreational use and habitat for rare and endangered species.

Please contact Dr. Judith E. Unsicker at this office if you wish to discuss these comments.

Yours truly,

O. R. BUTTERFIELD
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: John Keene, State Clearinghouse
Department of Fish and Game, Redding
Department of Fish and Game, Rancho Cordova

sh



GEORGE GEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH
1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO 95814
916/323-7480

31

State of California

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Resources
Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, 13th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date : January 8, 1988
RS

Telephone: ATSS ()
()

From : Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Subject : 0900 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
California Section 202 Wilderness EIS
SCH #87102114

Attached are our comments on the draft California Section 202
Wilderness EIS (SCH #87102114). Please contact us at 2-0128 if you
have any questions.

Jay D. Wickizer
Jay D. Wickizer
Environmental Coordinator

kh

Attachment

DATE: January 26, 1988

TO: Mr. Ed Hastey
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

FROM: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse

RE: SCH 87102114---Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Garcia
Mountain, Rockhouse, Doneland, Machessa, South Warner
Contiguous, Yolla-Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson Iceberg,
Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas.

As the designated California Single Point of Contact, pursuant to Executive
Order 12372, the Office of Planning and Research transmits attached comments
as the State Process Recommendation.

This recommendation is a consensus; no opposing comments have been received.
Initiation of the "accommodate or explain" response by your agency is,
therefore, in effect.

Sincerely,

Markon T. Carlyle, Jr.
Director, Office of Planning and Research

Attachment

cc: Applicant

3-1
C-1

Resources Building
1415 Ninth Street
R6614
(916) 445-5656
TDD (916) 324-0804

California Conservation Corps
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA



THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Tule Conservancy
California Waste Management
Board
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Division
State Recreation Board
State Water Resources Control
Board
Regional Water Quality
Control Boards

Mr. Ed Haste
State Director (CA-930)
Bureau of Land Management
2500 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

January 26, 1988

Dear Mr. Haste:

The State has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Garola Mountain, Rockhouse, Domeland, Machessa, South Warner Contiguous, Yolla-Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson Iceberg Section 202 Wilderness Study Area, submitted through the Office of Planning and Research.

Review of this document was coordinated with the State Lands Commission, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Departments of Conservation, Fish and Game, Forestry and Fire Protection, Parks and Recreation, and Water Resources.

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board has already sent its comments directly to you by letter of November 19, 1987.

We have attached for your consideration comments that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has prepared.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Gordon F. Shaw, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Resources

Attachment

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 87102114)

Review of California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas, Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Apparently wilderness designation would not significantly affect wildlife habitat, timber harvest, or grazing practices, on any of these parcels. If all the parcels were declared wilderness, only 613 acres of timber harvest, and 400 acres of unstocked placer mines, would be restricted. Grazing, which in any case consists of about 200 AMUs, would continue. No major range improvement projects are planned or in place on these parcels. Of 10,994 acres of proposed wilderness, 1,737 acres, or 16 percent, are recommended for wilderness designation. Areas recommended for wilderness include no commercial timberland or mining areas.

31.1 Wilderness designation restricts fire suppression activities, limiting the methods and equipment that can be used. In the EIS, impacts on fire control and hazard are not considered in any consistent fashion. Considering the tremendous impacts fire can have on resources, and on adjacent lands, fire management should have been considered for all parcels. Fire fighting organizations responsible for each parcel should have been part of the consultation process. After our last fire season, it is even more apparent that fire prevention and planning affects all California agencies with wildland management responsibility, and is a critical element in land use planning.

31.2 Both of the parcels selected to wilderness designation are in the least populated areas of the state. Areas closer to population centers, in San Luis Obispo, Tulare, Tehama, and Kern Counties, were not selected for wilderness status. However, much of the demand for wilderness recreation comes from urban residents. In general, a statewide perspective was missing from the document. Yet consideration of the distribution of wilderness areas is important not only for recreation, but for wildlife.

31.3 In some cases the argument against wilderness designation is weak or lacking. The parcels included in the Domeland MSA include 2,209 acres of Kern County land, adjacent to Forest Service Wilderness Area. On page 2C-5 it is stated that "steep, rocky slopes do not add to or enhance the wilderness character of the Domeland Wilderness Area." On the other hand, in discussing the South Warner MSA the authors state, "eroded topography, deep canyons, and ravines provide numerous opportunities for visitors to find solitude." Nearly 20 percent of the Domeland MSA is under placer mining claims, yet this is dismissed as an unimportant consideration. This area deserves further consideration.

31.4 Although selected Forest Service statements were included in discussion, the overall recommendation of the Forest Service with respect to designation of parcels was not included. This is potentially misleading. Since the wilderness values of most of these parcels depend on adjacent Forest Service land, the Forest Service view should be included in its entirety.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document.



P.O. Box 6114, Westerville, Ohio 43081-6114

Telephone (614) 891-2425
Telex: 245392



October 30, 1987

Mr. Ed. Hasty
State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hasty,

The American Motorcyclist Association is pleased to have the opportunity to submit comments on the eight California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas as addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement of October 1, 1987.

Garcia Mountain WSA (CA-010-012)

The AMA supports the proposed action for the Garcia Mountain WSA of no wilderness/no action. Within this area is a limited amount of off-road vehicle recreational opportunity which warrants protection and, correspondingly, we would oppose any action to designate this 494 acre parcel as wilderness.

Rock House WSA (CA-010-029)

The AMA supports the proposed action for the Rock House WSA of no wilderness/no action. It is the position of the Association that the limited acreage available within this WSA of 130 acres is insufficient to justify consideration as a designated wilderness site. While it is our understanding that there are no existing off-road vehicle recreational routes within the WSA we do not feel that there is need for wilderness designation of this acreage.

Domeland WSA (CA-010-032)

The AMA supports the proposed action for the Domeland WSA of no wilderness/no action. The Association opposes designation of the Domeland WSA based on the understanding that there have been no special features found within this WSA to warrant special protection under wilderness designated categories. Furthermore, due to the limited acreage within this WSA of 2,209 acres we do not feel that there is a demonstrated need for wilderness designation of this site.

Mr. Ed Hasty
October 30, 1987
Page 2

Machesna WSA (CA-010-108)

The AMA strongly opposes any efforts to designate this 80 acre parcel as wilderness. We support the proposed action for the Machesna WSA of no wilderness/no action. A section of the Machesna WSA has been utilized for a portion of the Hi Mountain enduro motorcycle event since 1950, and protection of this recreational opportunity is important for the individuals who have utilized this property historically for recreational purposes. We further do not feel that the limited acreage of this site of 80 acres has been demonstrated to justify a special wilderness protection.

South Warner Contiguous WAS (CA-020-708)

The Association supports the proposed action of partial wilderness designation with 1,187 acres recommended for wilderness designation and 1,313 acres remaining in non-wilderness management categories. Furthermore, the Association wishes to register its support of protection of the two miles of vehicle route which remain outside of the area recommended for wilderness designation.

Yolla-Bolly WSA (CA-030-501)

The AMA supports the proposed action for the Yolla-Bolly WSA of no wilderness/no action. The limited acreage within the site of 604 acres and the recognition that there are no special characteristics of this acreage which warrant wilderness protection is the basis for our opposition of any wilderness designation of this parcel.

Big Butte WSA (CA-050-211)

The AMA supports the proposed action for the Big Butte WSA of no wilderness/no action. It is the understanding of the Association that there have been no special characteristics identified for this 2,391 acre parcel to warrant inclusion in the category of designated wilderness areas.

Carson Iceberg WSA (NV-030-532)

The AMA, while questioning the need to provide special protection to an area limited to 550 acres as designated wilderness on Bureau of Land Management property, will support the proposed action of total wilderness designation for this area. However, it is the position of this Association that management of the Carson Iceberg WSA, because of its adjacent location to the Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Iceberg Wilderness, should be placed under the control of the U.S. Forest Service to minimize management costs associated with this designation.

The American Motorcyclist Association is pleased to have the opportunity to review the wilderness designations for California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas, and we request that we remain on the mailing list to receive notices for all future wilderness designation located on California BLM properties.

Sincerely,

Roy Janson
Government Relations

Earth First!

34

January 28, 1988

Ed Hastey, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, Ca. 95825

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Wilderness Recommendations for
California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas.

Dear Mr. Hastey,

Since we were involved in the scoping process for the Section 202 WSAs, why weren't we notified of the December 2, 1987 public hearing in Ukiah? The hearing was poorly noticed, and poorly attended as a result of BLM's deliberate attempt to limit public involvement.

For an agency that routinely gags on the word "Wilderness", BLM should be commended for recommending Wilderness status for nearly 16 percent of the 11,000 acres of wild lands under study, but even your own biased document reveals that all 11,000 acres deserve permanent Wilderness status.

These areas were once dropped from study by former Interior Secretary, James Watt, but a court decision forced Interior to reconsider the areas for Wilderness designation. As we pondered your document's silly rationalizations for opening these wild areas to developmental destruction, the graven image of James Watt with his dung-eating grin appeared etched on every page. "Watties" is obviously still alive and well in the BLM.

Nevertheless, we offer the following analysis and recommendations for your consideration. Hope springs eternal.

BIG BUTTE WSA: 2391 acres

WILDERNESS VALUES (DEIS)

- * Retains natural character (except 1/4 mile of primitive jeep trail)
- * Outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive & unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with adjacent Wildernesses.
- * Area of Special Biological Importance for winter deer herds by CDFG.
- * Outstanding scenic quality when considered in conjunction with adjacent Wildernesses.
- * Transient habitat for Bald Eagle, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, etc.
- * Foraging habitat for Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Spotted Owl, northern goshawk, etc.

- * Pristine watershed for the anadromous fish spawning and nursery streams of Coscoro and Antone Creeks
- * 613 acres of virgin old-growth Douglas-fir and Sugar pine adjacent to the existing Wildernesses.

MULTIPLE-USE VALUES (ANTICIPATED BY DEIS)

- * 613 acres of commercial forest land (17 MMBF) will be made available for logging in an area of highly unstable soils. This represents less than 5 percent of the Ukiah District's timber base. Of this, only 351 acres (9 MMBF) are especially economical to log, but would require a minimum of 2 miles of expensive, ecologically disastrous access roads.
- * Area remains open to mineral exploration and development even though there are no leaseable or saleable minerals in the WSA, and therefore no development is anticipated.
- * 10 acres of test planting to determine the viability of increasing suitable livestock forage
- * Open to OHV use by adjacent private property owners only since there is presently no public access to any of the parcels, and no plans to acquire general public access.
- * No trails or other recreational facilities planned
- * No fishing streams exist within the WSA.
- * Light hunting pressure due to limited access.

BLM RECOMMENDATION: NO WILDERNESS-NO ACTION

"The WSA will be managed for multiple-use since there are no outstanding wilderness values or cultural or wildlife resources that will receive protection through wilderness designation".

CONCLUSION:

When considered in conjunction with the Big Butte addition to the Tella Belly-Middle Bel Wilderness, the seven contiguous parcels of Big Butte WSA do indeed have outstanding Wilderness and wildlife values that will receive protection only through Wilderness designation.

The 613 acres of virgin Douglas-fir and sugar pine deserve permanent protection as "endangered habitat". The recent wildfires on the Mendocino National Forest, and adjacent BLM lands wiped out critical habitat for the endangered (yes it is!) Spotted Owl and other wildlife species dependent on mature and old-growth forests. All remaining old-growth on public lands should be given permanent protection to assure the viability of old-growth dependent species on public lands as mandated by law.

The isolation and inaccessibility of Big Butte WSA enhances its manageability as Wilderness in the long term, but BLM claims the area would best be managed for "multiple-use". Yet, the only multiple use

34.2

(2)

4.3 anticipated are those which will economically benefit private corporations and individuals -- logging 613 acres of virgin timber to benefit the welfare timber industry, planting forage to benefit the welfare ranching industry, and ORV access to adjacent property owners and their chums for poaching and joy riding.

The BLM has failed to adequately consider the cumulative impacts on multiple resource benefits that will result from the "no wilderness" recommendation for Big Butte WSA. The prime beneficiary will be the timber industry in the short-term, but in the long-term the public will have paid a terrible price. The permanent loss of 613 acres of virgin timber and associated wildlife habitat and the degradation of an important Koi River watershed. In addition, the negative impacts of logging, grazing, and ORV activities would totally ruin the natural qualities of Big Butte WSA and would have far-reaching negative impacts in the existing Wilderness since all of these activities would take place right on the Wilderness border.

We recommend Wilderness designation for the 2391 acre Big Butte WSA.

YOLLY BOLLY WSA: 640 acres

WILDERNESS VALUES (DEIS)

- * Retained its natural character
- * Outstanding opportunity for solitude, primitive and unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with adjacent U.S.F.S. Wilderness area.
- * Transient habitat for mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, etc.
- * Potential foraging habitat for Peregrine Falcon
- * Habitat for wintering deer herds.

MULTIPLE-USE VALUES (ANTICIPATED BY DEIS)

- * Open to ORV use, but there are no existing roads and trails, and the terrain precludes the use of recreational vehicles.
- * Open to passive recreational users.
- * No wildlife management activities planned
- * No grazing planned
- * No mineral development anticipated
- * No vegetation management planned
- * No timber harvest planned
- * No cultural resources located.

BLM RECOMMENDATION: NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION.

"DUE TO THE area's small size, remote location, and lack of resources, there will be minimal active management of these lands".

(3)

CONCLUSION:

When considered in conjunction with the adjacent Forest Service Wilderness area, Yolly Bolly WSA does indeed have outstanding Wilderness values and these can be protected only through Wilderness designation.

BLM recommends "no wilderness" so the area can be managed for multiple-use, yet the only use anticipated for the area is "passive recreation"--the same use offered by Wilderness designation.

We recommend wilderness designation for the 640 acre Yolly Bolly WSA to be managed by the USFS as part of the Yolly Bolly-Middle Koi Wilderness.

SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA: 3,313 acres, Eagle, Emerson, Barber, Van Riper and 12 acres of Hornbeck parcel.

WILDERNESS VALUES (DEIS)

- * Retained its natural character except for two miles of primitive "vehicle ways" and some "spring developments".
- * Outstanding opportunities for solitude
- * Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation when considered in conjunction with adjacent USFS Wilderness area.
- * High scenic quality
- * Probability that cultural sites occur within WSA -- but no inventories have been done.
- * High quality, diverse wildlife habitat for mule deer, antelope, California quail, blue grouse, big horn sheep (Emerson & Eagle), rainbow trout, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, northern goshawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Clark's Nutcracker, desert sparrow, coyote, bobcat, racoon, porcupine, etc.
- * High quality diverse vegetation with rare plants species a distinct probability.

MULTIPLE USE VALUES (ANTICIPATED BY DEIS)

- * ORV use on 2 miles of existing vehicle ways (50 visitor days)
- * Open to mineral exploration and development, but no exploration or development activities are anticipated.
- * Existing spring developments maintained for livestock, no new projects anticipated
- * No wildlife management anticipated
- * No timber management anticipated
- * No cultural resource management

BLM RECOMMENDATION: NO WILDERNESS/NO ACTION

"Manage for multiple-use".

(4)

CONCLUSION:

BLM recommends "no wilderness" for 3,313 acres of the 4500 acres South Warner WSA even though these parcels have outstanding Wilderness values particularly when considered as an extension of the existing South Warner Wilderness. Wilderness designation would preserve these values.

The only multiple-use anticipated that would not continue under Wilderness designation is ORV use of 50 visitor days on two miles of vehicle ways. Managing 3,313 acres of outstanding defacto wilderness for the "multiple-use" of a few ORV joy riders and hunters is totally unacceptable.

We recommend Wilderness designation for the entire South Warner WSA.

DOMELAND (2209 ac) ROCKHOUSE (131 ac.) GARCIA (498 ac.) MACHEENA (80 ac.)

When considered in conjunction with adjacent Wilderness or proposed Wilderness areas, the Domeland, Rockhouse, Garcia, and Macheena WSAs also have outstanding Wilderness and wildlife values which can be protected only through Wilderness designation.

BLM recommends "no wilderness" for these parcels under the rationale that anticipated management activities will not impact Wilderness values. The only anticipated multiple uses that wouldn't be allowed under Wilderness designation are mechanical fire suppression, ORV access, and mineral exploration and development. Due to terrain and access problems, only one WSA (Macheena) will have anticipated ORV use-- an annual "motorcycle endurance" for 75 participants even though a superior alternative route for this event exists and is unutilized. The only anticipated mineral activity will be some insignificant mineral assessment activity in Domeland WSA.

The BLM "no wilderness" rationale is unacceptable. We recommend full Wilderness protection for Domeland, Rockhouse, Garcia, and Macheena WSAs.

The BLM has failed to adequately assess the Wilderness values of the 202 Wilderness Study Areas because you have analyzed them as isolated parcels in the DEIS rather than as parcels contiguous with existing or proposed Wilderness areas. Even so, your own document gives ample evidence that all of these areas should be recommended for Wilderness designation because they are wild and deserve permanent protection from destructive development.

The BLM "Just Say No to Wilderness" campaign is an unacceptable perversion of the Reagan administration's anti-drug crusade. Wilderness is not an illegal drug.

Don Morris
Don Morris
Upper El EarthFirst!



February 11, 1988

California State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Sir,

The Draft Wilderness Recommendations for the Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas have been reviewed. This office concurs with the findings of the bureau with the exception of the Carson-Iceberg area.

We do not agree with the proposed wilderness for the Carson-Iceberg parcel as the existing road on the east boundary would be subsequently managed in a overcautious manner. The fact that the road is not accessible to all users today doesn't necessarily hold true for tomorrow. The present status of this 202 area is fully adequate protection for the land, and yet offers a de facto wilderness situation due to its existing terrain that precludes any further impairment. It is not necessary to place all land in wilderness just because it is roadless. There is no point in adding marginal or unsuitable lands to a quality wilderness system, just because they happen to be in the area.

The South Warner contiguous area recommendations are concurred with strongly by this organization. These areas are used by hunters, grazing permittees and possibly agency personnel on long standing motorized vehicle routes. Management of these areas in a wilderness status would prove to be difficult and serve as a hardship on the existing users. We believe you have made a wise decision in this area.

Sincerely,

Ed Bunkley
Ed Bunkley,
Field Representative

EB:jld

1730 "T" Street, Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 446-4562



SIERRA CLUB

Toiyabe Chapter - Nevada and Eastern California

February 12, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Gentlemen:

The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club enthusiastically supports your recommendation of the Carson-Iceberg WSA for wilderness. This area lies entirely within the Toiyabe Chapter boundaries, and we consider this parcel an important addition to the Carson Iceberg Wilderness.

We are disappointed that only 1187 acres of the South Warner Contiguous WSA was recommended for wilderness. The South Warner Wilderness is used by our chapter for outings and other activities, and we believe that the entire 4500 acres qualify as wilderness.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill
Marjorie Sill
Conservation Chair

75

EAGLE LAKE
POST OFFICE BOX 1502



AUDUBON SOCIETY
JUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96130

88

Feb. 14, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
State Office (1932)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Section 202 WSA's, Wilderness Recommendations

Dear Mr. Director:

These comments are on behalf of the Eagle Lake Chapter of the Audubon Society. This chapter includes Lassen and Modoc Counties, and therefore the South Warner Contiguous WSA.

We oppose the proposed action, or any BLM proposal, which does not recommend all nine units and all 4,500 acres for wilderness. We therefore support the All Wilderness Alternative.

BLM's DEIS gives no valid reason why all units of the WSA should not be recommended wilderness and be added to the adjacent South Warner Wilderness. We are familiar with the areas and believe their highest and best use would clearly be wilderness and bighorn sheep habitat. The east side of the S. Warner Wilderness is relatively close to private land where domestic sheep could graze and other human activities could threaten the primitive remoteness of the wilderness and the sheep ranging areas. Anything that can expand the boundaries eastward and provide more of a buffer between the heart of the wilderness and the non-wilderness activities on the private land should be approved. The DEIS fails to acknowledge the beneficial effect on the wilderness of the existing S. Warner Wilderness which the All Wilderness Alternative would bring.

We are familiar with the Emerson unit and the beautiful small campground which it nearly surrounds. This is a small and fragile camping area which would benefit greatly by surrounding it by the protection of wilderness designation. The BLM should change its recommendation to All Wilderness. The Eagle parcel has a known history of bighorn sheep use, and would make an excellent addition to the wilderness. It should receive the All Wilderness Alternative. The Barber parcel is the largest unit and fully meets wilderness criteria. It had moderate slopes and would complement the adjacent existing wilderness by adding a hilltop down to the base of the slope. The small road should be closed, the unit should be kept unspoiled for potential bighorn habitat expansion, and the unit should receive the All Wilderness Alternative. The Van Siper parcel has creeks and springs, stands of timber, and would also provide more buffer for the wilderness interior. It should be added to wilderness.

Not only will these wilderness additions enhance the S. Warner Wilderness and bighorn sheep habitat, they will also protect habitat for game and non-game wildlife species, including wilderness-associated species such as mountain lion and bobcat. Finally, we also support the All Wilderness Alternative for the other seven WSA's throughout the State in this DEIS.

Sincerely,
Bob Woods
Bob Woods



California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 • Davis, California 95616 • (916) 758-0380

February 15, 1988

Mr. Ed Hasty, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hasty:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement [EIS] for California California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas.

The California Wilderness Coalition supports the all wilderness alternative for all eight wilderness study areas [WSAs] under review: Garcia Mountain, Rockhouse, Domeland, Machesa, South Warner Contiguous, Yolla Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson Iceberg.

Unfortunately, we consider the EIS to be far from adequate. For example, most of the issues raised by the public in the scoping process are ignored in the EIS, including mineral resource development, ORV use, fire management, archaeological resources, wildlife (including threatened and endangered species) sensitive plant species, livestock grazing, riparian habitat, timber harvesting, fisheries and anadromous fish spawning, water quality, and cultural resources. All these issues are legitimate and should have been analyzed in detail in this EIS. Simply stating that such studies will be done should a change in management be proposed is not sufficient. A wilderness study should not depend upon information already known about an area; a detailed study may result in information that could change BLM's wilderness recommendation.

Also, the WSAs were studied without regard to the wilderness or roadless lands adjacent to them. The Forest Service used to do this in the past and has been repeatedly rebuffed by the courts and Congress. BLM should learn that refusing to study areas, fragmenting areas, or ignoring adjacent wild lands will result in legal and legislative challenges.

Our specific comments are as follows:

On page 1-4 there is no mention that all these areas originally were designated WSAs under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 [FLPMA]. It was not until these areas were dropped from review by Interior Secretary James Watt and reinstated by court order that the BLM decided to review these WSAs under Section 202 of FLPMA. We are not convinced that this change is status is correct, especially since the State Director has the authority to release Section 202 areas not recommended for wilderness designation.

Page 1-6: The question as to whether a WSA is to be managed as wilderness or managed for multiple resource values" implies that wilderness management is a single use. This, of course, is not true as recognized by Congress in the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960: "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of sections 528-531 of this title."

Page 2A-4: Garcia Mountain "will continue to be managed for multiple use" ignores the fact that wilderness designation is compatible with the definition of multiple use (see above).

Page 2A-5: All 494 acres of the original Garcia Mountain WSA should have been considered for analysis. This analysis should have considered the area as a whole, including the entire WSA, the existing wilderness, and contiguous roadless lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Failure to consider the various roadless/wilderness lands as a whole makes this review incomplete.

Page 2A-5: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2A-11: Opportunities for solitude should be considered in the WSA/roadless area as a whole, not just the WSA.

Page 2A-11: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/roadless area as a whole, not just the WSA.

Page 2A-16: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2B-4: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2B-4: The Rockhouse WSA actually would have a more manageable boundary since it is defined by a road on the east. The existing wilderness has no topographical delineation as it is a

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section line boundary with no identifiable features.

Page 2B-5: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2B-11: Opportunities for solitude should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2B-11: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2B-15: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2C-4: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

91.6 Page 2C-5: Please explain how designation of this WSA as wilderness could cause increasing trespass vulnerability to the adjacent Domeland Wilderness Area. The opposite would seem to be true.

Page 2C-5: Why do not "steep, rocky slopes" add to the wilderness character of the Domeland Wilderness Area?

Page 2C-11: Opportunities for solitude should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2C-11: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2C-15: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

91.7 Page 2D-3: It is stated that elimination of the Hi Mountain Enduro route in the WSA "would affect the availability of the only recreation vehicle route out of the Machesa Mountain area." Yet on Page 2D-18 it is stated that "alternate routes also used for the event exist outside the WSA permitting the annual event to continue to be held." Please explain the inconsistency in these two statements.

Page 2D-4: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2D-5: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2D-12: Opportunities for solitude should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2D-12: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2D-15: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2E-6: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2E-9: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2E-15: Why is it that only in this WSA is the adjacent wilderness area considered when analyzing opportunities for solitude?

91.8 Page 2E-15: Why is it that only in this WSA is the adjacent wilderness area considered when analyzing opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Page 2E-21: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2E-24: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2F-4: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2F-10: If foot access is difficult and there are no surrounding developments or activities, why aren't opportunities for solitude outstanding?

91.9 Page 2F-10: What areas are being compared with this WSA to show that there are not outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2F-13: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2G-6: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2G-13: Opportunities for solitude should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2G-13: Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation should be considered in the WSA/wilderness area as a whole, not in just the WSA.

Page 2G-19: Use of the term multiples use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2H-5: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Page 2H-19: Use of the term multiple use is incorrect as explained above.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft environmental impact statement [EIS] for California California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas.

Sincerely,


Jim Eaton
Executive Director

NORTHEAST CALIFORNIANS FOR Wilderness

P.O. Box 391 Susanville, Calif. 96130

92

February 14, 1988

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hasty:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Wilderness Recommendations DEIS for the Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas. We are very disappointed in the negative wilderness recommendations BLM gives most of them, and with the superficial and inadequate DEIS and analysis used to disqualify them. We believe all of the eight WSA's fully meet the criteria for wilderness, have no significant conflicts with other resources, and should be recommended for wilderness in their entirety. Specifically, your Final EIS should recommend the following for wilderness:

Garcia Mountain WSA	494 acres
Rockhouse WSA	130
Bowland WSA	2,209
Machessa WSA	80
S. Warner Contiguous WSA	4,500
Y. Bolly WSA	640
Big Butte WSA	2,391
Carson Iceberg WSA	550

Other comments.

92.1

1. The DEIS implies wilderness is NOT multiple use. This is incorrect, as wilderness is one of the multiple uses under FLPMA for which BLM manages. And, wilderness allows many other of the multiple uses--grazing, recreation, wildlife habitat, fisheries, watershed, cultural resources, etc. BLM's continuing strong anti-wilderness bias shows clearly as on p. v when it says WSA's not recommended for wilderness would be managed for multiple use. Wilderness IS a multiple use. With an attitude that wilderness is somehow not multiple use, but open-pit mining somehow is, it is no wonder that BLM has released such biased and negative anti-wilderness recommendations in this DEIS.

92.2

2. The DEIS is so superficial and lacking in site-specific information that it cannot be relied upon to release these areas to non-wilderness. The DEIS even admits (as on p. 2E-20) "the general nature of this analysis and the lack of numerical and statistical information regarding the area's resources..." It lists only 10 wildlife species in the S. Warner WSA that are non-game species. Of course there are many more, but the DEIS ignores them and the impacts on them. This is inadequate. It also claims no

92.2 "known" threatened or endangered animals in that WSA. Yet this is inadequate because T & E species have been seen in the WSA, showing that BLM's statement represents a lack of BLM knowledge, not a lack of T & E species. Finally, only 24 pages are given to describe the S. Warner WSA specifically, yet specifics are lacking on resources and conditions and consequences. This is inadequate for nine separate parcels totalling 4,500 acres. The legal precedent of California v. Block has established that wilderness decisions require site-specific resource data and site-specific environmental impacts, including quantifiable data. This DEIS fails to meet these judicial requirements.

92.3 3. The S. Warner WSA's do not have "barren slopes" and "barren hillsides", despite the deprecating prose of the DEIS. The nine separate units are diverse and rich in botanical and animal life. The DEIS characterizes them unfairly and reflects a livestock forage orientation rather than a scientific or wilderness one.

4. The DEIS fails to describe the beneficial consequences of wilderness protection on the adjacent National Forest wildernesses. It admits only limited benefit on the WSA units themselves. The Final EIS should correct this oversight and wilderness designation would cause benefits to the wilderness qualities on both sides of the agency boundaries. The larger the wildernesses are, the more internal protection they have from overuse and from intruding outside influences. Also, the greater will be their opportunities for solitude and for primitive recreation. It is time BLM saw wilderness as an integrated whole rather than just what's on BLM's side of the boundary.

92.4 5. The DEIS gives no valid rationale why all of the WSA's acreages should not be recommended for wilderness. Again, all of these eight WSA's provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and for primitive recreation in conjunction with the adjacent wildernesses or proposed wildernesses. All eight WSA's will enhance the adjacent wilderness by adding acreages to them. All eight will in turn be enhanced by combination with the adjacent wilderness. The resource conflicts with grazing, minerals, etc. are minor to non-existent, as the DEIS states. And yet BLM is proposing less than 16 percent of the acreage for wilderness! This does not do the areas justice, and must be corrected in the Final EIS.

92.5 6. The South Warner partial wilderness recommendations are very inadequate. All the nine WSA's and the full 4,500 acres should be recommended for wilderness. The DEIS shows no rationale why they should not. It also fails to acknowledge many reasons why the threatened bighorn sheep preserve within the S. Warner Wilderness. Tragically, most of the large herd of 40-50 has just recently been destroyed, perhaps by viral pneumonia contracted from contact with domestic sheep. Any measure that could enlarge the size of the bighorn territory and reduce the chances of such a tragic loss in the future, should be adopted. See attached.

7. The DEIS correctly recognizes the S. Warner bighorn sheep as a Special Feature in the WSA's. It should also mention that bighorn sheep are a wilderness-associated species. People expect to find bighorns only in the wildest and most remote spots in North America, and, in fact, bighorns seem to require and thrive on isolation from the influence of man. Suitable bighorn habitat is rare, especially on BLM lands, and when existing or potential habitat does exist, BLM should make every effort to improve and expand that habitat. So you should be commended for adding three units in the heart of their foraging areas (p. 2E-15) to the wilderness, thus affording more protection. However, the DEIS contradicts itself when it claims (p. 2E-16) that it would designate all lands used by the sheep. Page 2E-15 states that the Emerson and Eagle parcels are also used by bighorns, and yet the DEIS fails to recommend them for wilderness. This should be corrected in the Final EIS, and all nine S. Warner WSA parcels should be recommended for wilderness, including the Eagle, Emerson, Barber, and Van Riper Parcels. These will provide future bighorn habitat and give more buffer between the sheep and human civilization and intrusion, including ORV's and domestic sheep. If BLM is truly serious about professionally managing wilderness and wilderness species instead of just cattle, mining, and ORV's (and its performance in the California Desert shows otherwise), then it should prove it by adding all these parcels to wilderness.

92.7 8. The DEIS asserts that grazing of domestic livestock including sheep will continue in the WSA parcels. In view of the tragic loss of the bighorn herd, possibly caused by disease contracted from domestic sheep, this is an short-sighted, biased, and totally wrong decision that should be completely removed from the FEIS. Instead, domestic sheep should be prohibited from the WSA's and the S. Warner Wilderness.

In conclusion, we are greatly disappointed with the DEIS for all eight WSA's and particularly for the S. Warner WSA. BLM has again clearly shown its inability to enhance the wilderness resource, and a continuing short-sighted and biased attitude toward the wilderness resource it is supposed to professionally manage. We trust the Final EIS will correct some of this imbalance and recommend all the wilderness additions for permanent protection which they so strongly deserve. Please send us a copy of the FEIS.

Sincerely, *Douglas M. Kish*

cc: Sen. Alan Cranston
Sen. Pete Wilson
Congressman Norman Shumway

Superior California

Editorials 19

B

The Sacramento Bee, Friday, February 11, 1988

Pneumonia threatens bighorn sheep herd

By James R. Spotts, Little Rock, Arkansas

Visible pneumonia have killed 11 bighorn sheep in the last 10 days in the Sierra Nevada mountains, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. The disease, which is caused by a bacterium, is spreading rapidly among the animals, which are found in the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada.

The disease has been reported in other areas of the Sierra Nevada, but it has not been reported in the Sierra Nevada before. The disease is caused by a bacterium, which is found in the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada. The disease is spreading rapidly among the animals, which are found in the high mountains of the Sierra Nevada.

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Defenders OF WILDLIFE

February 14, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, California Section 202
Wilderness Study Areas, Wilderness Recommendations.

Dear Friends:

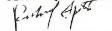
Defenders of Wildlife submits this letter as our comments and recommendations on the above-referenced California Section 202 Wilderness DEIS. Please consider our input, and include this letter in the appropriate public record.

At the outset, we strongly support and urge BLM to adopt the "All Wilderness Alternative" for all eight of the studied Wilderness Study Areas: Garcia Mountain, Rockhouse, Homeland, Machemna, South Warner Contiguous, Yolly Bolly, Big Butte, and Carson-Iceberg. We believe that all of these roadless areas qualify for, deserve, and need wilderness designation. This is especially true given their adjacent and/or proximate location to existing or proposed wilderness areas.

We further believe that designating these eight WSAs as wilderness would substantially benefit these roadless areas' outstanding wildlife, habitat, and other natural values. For example, the South Warner Contiguous WSA provides key habitat for the threatened California bighorn sheep.

Please support and recommend to Congress wilderness designation for all eight of these WSAs. Thank you very much for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Richard Spotts
California Representative
Defenders of Wildlife

November 1, 1987

Re: DCD statement
on eight WSA's
October 1, 1987;
Listed on
attached memo

Ed Hastley,
State Director
U.S.D. Bureau of
Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

George A. Bridges
3124 Brody Drive
Sacramento, CA 95821

February 10, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Sirs:

We are writing in support of all eight Wilderness Study Areas mentioned in the recent draft recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management.

We personally have spent considerable time through the years in the general area of Big Butte in the Yolla Bolly Eel river watershed in Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties. Also in the general area of the Rockhouse Wilderness Study Area. Only last summer we spent a few days in Alturas and over east in Surprise Valley around Cedarville and Fort Bidwell.

We feel that because all of these areas are contiguous with present wilderness areas or forest lands and because we would like to see some small part of California indigenous wildlife, its unspoiled scenery - and most of these areas that I have seen have considerable scenic value - and in some areas catchment areas which will all to soon be permanently spoiled as to water and fish resources if they are not protected preserved for my grandchildren.

We know that it is hard to please everyone, and we do wish to thank the BLM for many wise decisions as to management of resources in the past - and, especially, your decision regarding the Carson-Isberg Mts. This area over west of US 395 is truly alpine and can in some respects match the Swiss Alps.

Cordially,

George A. Bridges
George A. Bridges

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4.1

As per the attached memo, my comments on the draft EIS are as follows:

The discussions on the "soils and watershed resources" for each WSA would be more helpful if they were expanded to include such items as: a) location of springs and wells - flows, depth to water, quality, and well lithology; b) seepage tanks; c) quantity of precipitation and streamflow runoff; and d) impact on those items (a, b, and c) through designating or not designating as a wilderness or nonwilderness area.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours
Sanford L. Werner

February 9, 1988

Bill Hestey, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Mr. Hestey

I am writing to comment on the Draft EIS prepared for the South Warner Contiguous W.S.A.

I am happy to note that the Granger, Milk, Cottonwood, and Hornbeck parcels are recommended for management as wilderness. However, for the following reasons I would suggest the inclusion of the Eagle, Emerson, Barber, and Van Riper parcels in the wilderness management plan:

- Motorized use decline causing an overall visitor use decline of 25 days per annum is listed as the only impact for the all wilderness alternative. I disagree.

While a small decline of motorized hunting might occur for several years, I would expect overall visitor use to increase, especially during the fall season. One of the best times of year to explore the above areas on foot is during hunting season. I would personally welcome more areas prohibiting motorized hunting during that season with the enhanced opportunities for solitude that would occur.

- I have hiked in several of these areas: Van Riper, Barber, and Emerson. They all compare most favorably in wilderness values to the areas recommended for wilderness management.
- The population of Northeastern California is growing faster than the rest of California (22% compared to 17.9%) with in-migration accounting for 75-80% of the increase.¹ My family and I moved to Modoc County because of the relatively pristine nature of the surrounding environment. The value of wilderness to the public is increasing.
- Public lands managed as wilderness may cause future economic benefit to the managerial agency. Output benefit values show that wilderness users are willing to pay \$13.75 per recreational visitor day for wilderness.²
- The Modoc County General Plan lists these areas as important winter antelope range, antelope winter range, and antelope kidding grounds.

- Sagegrouse lekking in the Barber and Van Riper parcels has been observed.³

- These areas could increase available bighorn sheep habitat if managed as wilderness, thus allowing that herd to increase.

I believe that the values listed above clearly point the the benefits of managing all the South Warner Contiguous W.S.A. as wilderness. Any other alternative creates potential unacceptable risks to these values.

Sincerely,

Sophie Sheppard
Sophie Sheppard

jd

¹Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, Modoc National Forest, September 1987, Chapter 3, pp. 1.

²Draft E.I.S. Modoc National Forest, September 1987, Appendix B, Table B-8.

³William and Christina Hodge, Eagleville, CA.

Tina Hodge
Box 6
Eagleville, Ca. 96110
February 7, 1988

68

Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way
California State Office
Sacramento, Ca. 95825

Dear B.L.M. Director,

I am writing in response to the Draft E.I.S. California Section 202 Wilderness Study. I agree. I feel the task of putting together such a document is a large one. I appreciate all of the work and organization it took to produce it. However, I feel certain aspects should be strengthened. I support the All Wilderness Alternative on each of these WSA's.

As a private landowner adjacent to both the Barber and Van Riper parcels within the South Warner Contiguous WSA, I have to disagree with your decision to exclude these areas from Wilderness protection. The Draft E.I.S. does not make it clear why this decision was reached. I am disappointed that during the scoping phase you decided that several important issues were "insignificant" and did not study these in detail. Wildlife, Endangered Species, and Cultural Resources, are issues of concern to me. The Draft E.I.S. addresses this in paragraph 2, page 5. Only one issue was identified for detailed analysis. In the Federal Intensive Inventory 1979, first paragraph on page 12, it states: "These determinations, made through the BLM-land use planning system, will consider all values, resources, and uses of the public land."

After living in this area and walking these lands, I am amazed to find you did not identify any endangered or threatened species. I have personally seen the American Peregrine Falcon, the Bald Eagle, the Swainson's Hawk (dark phase), and the Great Grey Owl.

There are many non-game species, some rare and sensitive, besides those on your list: Mountain Lion, Marten, Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, Blue Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Yellow Warbler, Western Gray Squirrel, Marsh Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Evening Grosbeak, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Least Bunting, Townsend Solitaire, Killdeer, Pygmy Owl, Great-Horned Owl, Long-Eared Owl, Saw-Whet Owl, Screech Owl, Poorwill, Nighthawk, Cassin's Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Audubon's Warbler, Mountain Bluebird, and a myriad of Snakes, Lizards, Insect's, and small Mammals, etc. Paragraph 6 on page 25-17, in the Draft E.I.S. reads: "Non-game species of importance expected within the WSA..." This statement brings two questions to mind: 1) How does B.L.M. define "importance of a species?" 2) The word "expected" makes me wonder if this area was studied. The expansion of Bighorn Sheep habitat here is another factor in favor of Wilderness inclusion.

Game species of importance are the Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, Chukar, Ca. Quail, and Sage Grouse. In the Modoc County General Plan Initial Draft 1986, the Barber and Van Riper parcels are shown on habitat maps to be critical Winter Range for Mule Deer, Winter Range, Kidding Grounds and Migration Routes for Antelope.

I believe these WSA's need to be closed to Mineral and Energy Exploration and Development. Wilderness inclusion would insure permanent protection.

2.

I feel it is very important to exclude ORV use in any WSA. I have seen people get their vehicles stuck in North Barber Creek itself, tear up the vegetation, drive where there are no tracks previously, chase and kill various animals, poach deer, ruin habitat, litter, and cause very visible soil erosion. This is strong negative impact rather than negligible impact and needs to be stopped.

I am left wondering if the land tenure adjustments would have any adverse economic impact on B.L.M. Did this influence your decision not to include the 3,313 acres of this WSA?

I have experienced that this WSA meets the four requirements for Wilderness defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964: 1) Naturalness 2) Outstanding opportunity for solitude and primitive recreation 3) Is contiguous to the existing South Warner Wilderness 4) Contains ecological and geological features of scientific, educational, scenic, and historical value. My family and I explore, observe, and study in these areas. We have found many wonders of nature here. Also, several Cultural Sites are evidenced by lithic scatters, bi-facial artifacts, and ground stones.

This is definitely the time to fully establish a National Wilderness System in our country. The time of natural balance of any ecosystem is coming to a perilous edge because of human greed. It is time to stop listening to private interest groups who only want to make money off the public lands. This is done at the expense of the rest of the people and the health of the land itself. It is now scientifically known that all lifeforms on the planet are interdependent. We need Wilderness and it needs us.

Sincerely,

Tina Hodge
Tina Hodge

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Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2900 Cottage Way
Sacramento, Ca.

Feb. 9, 1988

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William C. Hodge
P.O. Box 6, Eagleville
Calif. 96110

Dear BLM,

I have read your wilderness recommendations and DEIS for Calif.

Sec. 202 Wilderness Study Areas and would like to make some comments.

First, I support the all wilderness alternatives for all eight WSA's, as a matter of principal. California is rapidly approaching a population of 30,000,000 and needs to protect to the fullest all areas left where solitude can still be found; where one can still perceive the natural order, rather than man's disorder and greed. Also, maximum protection of our dwindling wildlife habitat is urgent.

Concerning the South Warner Contiguous WSA, I can speak more specifically, as I live adjacent to the Barber and Van Riper WSA's.

The Warner DEIS is admittedly sketchy. Scooping all but eliminated intensive inventory, possibly reflecting a lack of people, time or money. Even so, based on the information which was provided, the logical conclusion would be to recommend all of the Warner WSA's for wilderness inclusion. It is difficult to see why the southern Warner WSA's (Barber, Van Riper, Emerson and Eagle) were not recommended along with the Northern Warner WSA's, which were.

It was pointed out that these southern WSA's had a lower % of common boundary with the existing wilderness than those recommended for inclusion. This is not a viable concern.

The DEIS correctly noted that all of the Warner WSA's meet the four-point definition of wilderness, and that in fact, the southern ones offer more solitude than the northern ones.

It was also noted that the southern WSA's were used by off-road-

vehicles. I hope this was not the determining factor for non-wilderness designation. There are hundreds of miles of roads in this general area suitable for ORV's, that were not determined to meet wilderness characteristics. I do not feel that because a few people want to drive over pristine areas, is a reason to deprive them of wilderness protection.

Contrary to the finding in the DEIS, ORV's were not confined to the often mentioned two miles dirt road "suitable for their use". I have often seen them a mile from any track in the Barber WSA, i.e. in the plateau west of Bald Mt. Even if this area is only "moderately erodible", why not protect it from ORV's?

In explaining the non-wilderness recommendation for the southern Warner WSA's, the DEIS states that they "do not maintain the same topography or vegetative features as the adjacent wilderness lands." All the more reason that they should be included. These lands are as Edge-between desert and forest. The two overlap here, like an inter-tidal zone, creating a richness of habitat possibilities not found in either desert or forest alone.

The DEIS finds almost no difference in impact between the three alternatives studied, either in use or degradation of wilderness values. This question of wilderness values was the only issue studied in any depth. Full wilderness protection was compared to "projected"¹, "expected"² and "anticipated"³ future impacts to these areas if left non-wilderness. Why not avoid the guess work and give these WSA's a guaranteed long term protection, by including them in the wilderness? According to the DEIS, this action would provide slight improvement in wilderness characteristics and no negative impacts (except for a slight loss of ORV use).

I believe that a more complete study of these southern Warner WSA's

1) page 2E-11 2) 2E-10, rec. management 3) 2E-11, mining/energy

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would turn up more reasons for their inclusion.

Wildlife that I have witnessed in the Barber and Van Riper WSA's, which were not mentioned in the DEIS include; Bald Eagle, Peregrine, Great Grey Owl, Sage Grouse, Mountain Lion, Marten, Western Grey Squirrel, Pileated Woodpecker and more.

The Modoc County General Plan lists this area as Critical habitat for both mule deer and Pronghorn. I have buried day-old fawns whose mothers have been shot from CRV's in the Barber WSA.

The DEIS over-looked cross-country skiing in its list of primitive and unconfined recreation. I have observed x-o skiers in the Barber parcel. With its wide open slopes of varying grade, good snow pack and accessibly, this parcel is a natural draw for x-o skiing.

In conclusion I recommend that the Barber, Van Riper, Emerson and Eagle parcels be granted wilderness status. I am interested to know by what reasoning they were denied.

Sincerely,

William C. Hodge
William C. Hodge

cc: Senator Alan Cranston
Senator Pete Wilson
Congressman Norm Shumway

720 Brookfield Drive
Reno, NV 89503
February 12, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Gentlepersons:

I am writing concerning the eight WSA's which were dropped by Interior Secretary Watt in 1982 and reinstated by District Court action in 1985. These WSA's are all adjacent to existing or proposed wilderness areas and, in spite of their small size, are important.

Unfortunately, the only parcel that BLM has recommended in its entirety is the 550 acre Carson-Iceberg WSA containing 1 1/2 miles of the East Carson River. This is an area I am very familiar with, and I applaud this recommendation. However, I fail to understand your logic in not recommending the other parcels, particularly the South Warner Contiguous WSA (where you have recommended only 1187 acres) and the Domeland WSA where you have recommended none of the 2209 acres. These are important additions to existing wilderness and need to be added to the wilderness system. The Big Butte WSA, Yolla Bolly WSA, Rockhouse WSA, Garcia Mountain WSA, and the Machessa WSA are also worthy of inclusion.

Thank you for your reconsideration of these important areas.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Sill
Marjorie Sill

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FEB 18 11 20 AM '88

SACRAMENTO

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Supervisor:

I write to urge reversal of your very limited support for wilderness designations of WSAs adjacent to the Forest Service's South Warner and Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wildernesses. I have personally hiked throughout substantial portions of both of these and can testify to their value as wildlife habitat for many of our rarer species, especially those for whom solitude (remoteness from man) and a prolific, diverse diet of prey are critically important and ever vanishing qualities.

The WSA parcels along the east Warners are necessary additions to the USFS property because they are an inseparable part of that habitat's integrity. Ecological equilibrium is not well-served by the bureaucratic technicalities of managerial imperatives and administrative domains.

In particular I am disturbed by the doublethink displayed in your rationale for discarding the wilderness option for the Yolla Bolly WSA. Your bureau, as well as USFS, commonly cites competing interests--both recreational (e.g., ORV use) and commercial (e.g., mining and grazing)--as grounds for denying wilderness designation. Given a multiple-use principle in a world of political compromise, this is fair enough as a generality (though I may well dispute the verdict of your "balancing act"). Here, on the other hand, you cite the very absence of such activities as your basis for the same recommendation! Both Big Butte and Yolla Bolly merit attachment to the USFS wilderness, despite your apparent determination to locate a rationale to the contrary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hollis Lenderking
Hollis Lenderking

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13 Feb 88
PO Box 170278
San Francisco, CA 94117

J.A. Ferrara
Bx 522
Covelo, CA 95408

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February 13, 1988

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office (CA-930)
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95835

re: DRS for Wilderness Recommendations for California "Section 303"
Wilderness Study Areas

Dear Mr. Hestey & Staff--

This remarkable document resembles more an EA/FONSI than a NEPA-complying EIS:

1) It could hardly disclose less about these WSA's and the effects of Wilderness Recommendation on them.

96.1

2) Please review NEPA and CEQ guidelines, especially regarding disclosure and capricious decision-making.

3) In a supplement, analyze and discuss the effects of non-wilderness activities on fish, wildlife, visual, recreational and archaeological values.

Please seriously consider recommending Wilderness Designation for all eight of these precious and important areas in their

Activities.

With regard to the Big Butte WSA the following issues remain significant:

1) The scattered tracts of this WSA reduces the value and increase the difficulty of timber management there.
2) Cumulative watershed impacts are already severe in the streamcourses, due to past timber management, road-building, overgrazing and "burning type-conversion" (historical).

3) These areas are important wildlife corridors which helps assure that stochasticity does not interfere with the populations in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Fork Eel & Middle Fork Eel Wilderness.

I wish you folks at BLM were not so biased against preserving what little is left for future generations.

Sincerely,
J. A. Fenner

The following are responses to comments raised during public review of the DEIS. Each response is numbered and corresponds to the public comment letters. The responses are numerically arranged by individual letter and specific response.

Letter 1 Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

Response 1.1 - Response-Due to the Domeland WSA's proximity to the community of Onyx, the USFS has expressed concern that bringing the boundary for the wilderness area down to the river, adjacent to private land, would present manageability problems, in the form of increased unauthorized vehicular access. Bureau management will continue to protect the resource values of the area.

Letter 4 Sanford L. Werner

Response 4.1 - The discussion of soils and watershed resources in each WSA is designed to respond to individual issues raised throughout the scoping process. There were no specific soils and/or watershed issues raised throughout the public scoping process. Additionally, the information described in the Affected Environment narratives provides an overview of the resource characteristics of each WSA. The specific information identified in the comment letter was not considered necessary to respond to any specific issues or management concerns. Therefore, additional information is not considered necessary to address the environmental issues raised in the letter.

Letter 9 Kern County Department of Planning and Development Services

Response 9.1 - Before any mineral assessment activity can be initiated, the operator must file a plan of operation with the Bureau. An environmental assessment of the action is then completed, identifying issues such as the protection of downstream aquatic habitat. Stipulations and mitigating measures identified in the environmental assessment must then be included in the plan of operations. Only then will the Record of Decision be signed and any assessment activity begun.

Letter 11 Lee Wilson

Response 11.1 - Although the EIS assesses the environmental consequences of the Hi Mountain Enduro race, the BLM's wilderness proposals for the Machesna Section 202 WSA is not predicated on this event. See response 35.2 for further information.

Letter 13 Harry Metzger

Response 13.1 - As discussed in the EIS, the Domelands WSA may possibly contain habitat for the California yellow-billed cuckoo. Present BLM management will adequately protect this potential habitat.

Letter 14 E. Craig Cunningham

Response 14.1 - The Machesna WSA and Garcia WSA are recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation as a result of a lack of outstanding wilderness values, difficulty in management caused by the geographic configuration of the areas and the concerns of the U.S. Forest Service in adding the two WSAs to existing Forest Service Wilderness Areas. Both the Garcia Mountain WSA and Machesna WSA are located within the California Condor Habitat Range, and will continue to be managed in consideration of the California Condor Reintroduction Zone.

Letter 16 U.S. Bureau of Mines

Response 16.1 - The EIS acknowledges that the potential for locatable minerals may be moderate. However, no mineral exploration or development activities are anticipated within a 15 to 20-year planning projection. Restricted access is a primary reason cited for this projection, and the access situation is not expected to change in the foreseeable future. (Carson Iceberg, Carson City RA).

Letter 17 The California Native Plant Society

Response 17.1 - The DEIS presents neither in depth justification nor rationales for the various recommendations. Rather, the intent of the EIS is to portray the array of alternatives and their anticipated environmental consequences. The EIS provides an assessment of the environmental consequences. The Wilderness Study Reports that will be prepared subsequent to the FEIS will provide more information on the rationale that support the BLM's proposals and/or Record of Decision.

Response 17.2 - BLM's Wilderness Study Policy states that the use of buffer zones will not be considered when analyzing an area's suitability for wilderness.

Response 17.3 - Assessing the old-growth timber on BLM lands throughout the Ukiah district is outside the scope of this analysis. Old growth resources are addressed as they pertain to the WSA.

Letter 19 Department of the Air Force

Response 19.1 - There is no specific prohibition of overflights of wilderness areas by aircraft. Except in bonafide emergencies, search and rescue efforts, and essential military missions such as training flights, low altitude over flights would be discouraged. Where low overflight is a problem, or expected to become a problem, wilderness management plans will provide for liaison with proper military authorities, the Federal Aviation Administration, and pilots in the general area in an effort to reduce low flights, if at all possible.

Letter 30 William Lemos

Response 30.1 - The Yolla Bolly WSA has no special features or outstanding wilderness qualities. The only commercial forest lands in Big Butte WSA that might be suitable for the Spotted Owl (Section 22 and 27) are not considered to be suited for timber harvest. There have been no owls documented in the area since the early 1980's.

Response 30.2 - There is no "buffer" zone surrounding established wilderness areas. Logging activities adjacent to wilderness areas will temporarily detract from wilderness characteristics and some users will be adversely impacted. The Soldier Ridge logging operation is in an area that has historically been logged.

Letter 31 The Resources Agency of California

Response 31.1 - Wilderness designation can restrict fire fighting methods, primarily the use of mechanized equipment and presuppression activities that are not specifically intended to enhance or maintain wilderness characteristics. However, the intent of these wilderness management practices is not to minimize fire fighting efforts necessary to protect life and property. Additionally, these specific WSAs do not present any unusual or special risk that would require out of the ordinary consideration of fire management. Therefore, specific consultation with individual fire fighting organizations was not included as part of the EIS.

Response 31.2 - An assessment of the diversity and distribution of wilderness resources is addressed in the Wilderness Study Reports prepared by the BLM following publication of the Final EIS. While these characteristics are important in the selection of a proposed action (i.e., wilderness/non-wilderness designation) the EIS is intended to portray the environmental effects of the individual alternatives as opposed to providing a rationale for the specific decisions.

Response 31.3 - The Domeland WSA contains no unique or special features in relation to the total geographical location of the area. Additionally, while the BLM has no objection to wilderness designation for the Domeland WSA, the Forest Service did not feel that wilderness management would be enhanced by boundaries to incorporate the BLM lands. As stated in both the DEIS and FEIS, "the Sequoia National Forest expressed concern about the potential for increasing trespass vulnerability to the USFS Domeland Wilderness Area should the WSA be designated Wilderness."

Response 31.4 - Specific references to the U.S. Forest Service in the EIS focus on the individual National Forests since the recommendations reflect the interest and consistency with the individual Forest Plans. However, the Region 5 Office (California) of the U.S.F.S. was closely involved with and supportive of the recommendations of the staff of each National Forest.

Letter 32 Sierra Club - Redwood Chapter

Response 32.1 - As with all WSAs under wilderness review by the BLM, specific management actions are identified under each alternative for individual WSAs based on reasonable planning projections for the next 15 to 20 years. These projections provide the basis for the analysis of the environmental consequences. Based on past activities, current uses and these planning projections, the EIS provides an assessment of the short term as well as the long term effects of various alternatives including wilderness and non-wilderness management of both the Yolla Bolly and Big Butte Section 202 WSAs. With the

exception of the projected timber harvest of 9MMBF on three parcels totalling 351 acres in the Big Butte WSA, there are no surface disturbing management actions anticipated that would result in other than short term effects in either of the WSAs. The long term effects have been considered and are documented in the EIS. Additionally, the BLM's Wilderness Study Policy precludes studying these WSAs as buffer areas to the bordering wilderness areas.

Letter 33 Robert Barnes

Response 33.1 - The small BLM parcel does not contain representative vegetation for all "ecoregions" described, or contribute a significant amount or type of vegetation not represented throughout the general area.

Response 33.2 - The FEIS will be changed to identify the Mountain Quail as a common species.

Response 33.3 - The Bureau is aware of the criticality of this area as habitat for the osprey. The Bureau, however, has concluded that present management is adequate to protect the habitat.

Response 33.4 - The purpose for the cooperative management agreement with The Nature Conservancy is to enhance riparian vegetation following the floods of 1985. Again, the Bureau has concluded that present management is adequate to protect the riparian vegetation. No unique or special features are found within the same physiographic land province. Present Bureau management will adequately protect the resource values made reference to in the comment letter. Due to the Domeland WSA's proximity to the community of Onyx, the USFS has expressed concern that bringing the boundary for the Wilderness Area down to the river, adjacent to private land, would present manageability problems, in the form of increased unauthorized vehicular access.

Letter 34 Earth First! Don Morris

Response 34.1 - The public hearings were officially noticed in the Federal Register on Thursday, October 15, 1987. Additionally, each district hosting the public hearings made efforts to inform local interest groups with mailings and newspaper announcements. A press release dated November 17, 1987 was mailed to all persons who had, in the past, expressed interest in the Big Butte WSA, as well as environmental groups and organizations, and their representatives.

Response 34.2 - See Spotted Owl discussion, response 36.1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife recently considered, but did not add, the Spotted Owl to the Endangered Species list.

Response 34.3 - The impacts of timber harvest within the Big Butte WSA have been addressed in the DEIS. These impacts are for the most part temporary in nature and will be lessened as a result of the stipulations and mitigation measures proposed in the SYU 13 Forest Management document.

Response 34.4 - The BLM's assessment of the Section 202 WSA's is limited to the public lands under the BLM's management authority. However, close coordination with the U.S.F.S. concerning the adjacent National Forests was integral part of the scoping process and throughout the preparation of the DEIS to assure consistency in the planning and management of these areas.

Letter 35 Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter

Response 35.1 - The Garcia Mountain WSA does not exhibit wilderness values that suggest wilderness designation of the area. Consultation with the Los Padres National Forest as well as the Forest Service Regional Office in San Francisco provided an important consideration in establishing the proposed action - no wilderness/no action. As stated in the DEIS, wilderness designation would result in cooperative management responsibilities between the BLM and U.S.F.S.

Response 35.2 - As described in the DEIS, wilderness management would preclude use of the WSA for a portion of the Hi Mountain Enduro motorcycle race. However, under wilderness management of the WSA this use could be relocated outside the WSA. The Hi Mountain Enduro would be able to continue on adjacent lands providing an alternative to the route within the WSA. The proposed action for the Machesna Section 202 WSA is not based on the occurrence of this event.

Letter 36 Katherine Petterson

Response 36.1 - According to the U.S. Forest Service, only one old growth forest was consumed in the San Hedrin Fire, with only minor damage to others. The only commercial forest lands in the Big Butte WSA that might be suitable for the Spotted Owl (Section 22 and 27) are not considered to be suited for timber harvest. There have been no owls documented in the area since the early 1980's.

Letter 60 The California Native Plant Society

Response 60.1 - The Bureau of Land Management has no current livestock authorizations on this land. Unauthorized cattle grazing the area would be coming from adjacent private lands. The Bureau will investigate the report of cattle in this area.

Letter 63 Fredrick A. Bacher, Jr.

Response 63.1 - Blue Oaks are not considered rare. Additionally, no unique or special features are found within the WSA in relationship to the total geographical location of the area, including habitat for rare or threatened species.

Letter 72 Tulare County Audubon Society

Response 72.1 - See response 33.2

Response 72.2 - The entire WSA is not included in the cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy. The purpose for the cooperative management agreement with the TNC is to enhance riparian vegetation following the floods of 1985. Again, the Bureau has concluded that present management is adequate to protect the riparian vegetation.

Letter 91 California Wilderness Coalition

Response 91.1 - The EIS addresses issues relevant to the effects of wilderness designation for each WSA. Other concerns raised by the BLM and the public were reviewed for potential inclusion and detailed analysis in the EIS. There is a brief description of "why" topics such as listed in the letter have been dismissed from analysis.

Response 91.2 - Studying U.S. Forest Service lands is outside the scope of the EIS. The BLM is not responsible for establishing management direction for these lands. However, close coordination between agencies was maintained throughout the study to assure consistency in the planning and management of these areas.

Response 91.3 - BLM does not have authority under Section 603 of FLPMA to study these areas since they do not meet the minimum size criteria established in the Wilderness Act. The BLM is acting in accordance with the Court agreement to study these areas under Section 202, and as noted, the State Director may release them after completion of necessary environmental documentation.

Response 91.4 - The document refers to multiple use in a generic sense to represent a broader spectrum of uses other than those permitted under wilderness designation. See definition of "multiple use" on page 6-3 in the Glossary.

Response 91.5 - BLM previously considered all lands and identified those which qualified for wilderness study in the final intensive inventory decisions for California in March (CDCA) and December (remaining lands in CA), 1979. The 414 acres not considered in the EIS are adjacent to Forest Service lands not designated or recommended for wilderness designation in the Los Padres National Forest Plan. Therefore, they no longer meet the wilderness qualifications established under Section 202 of FLPMA and are not analyzed for wilderness designation.

Response 91.6 - see response 33.4

Response 91.7 - In the High Mountain Enduro there are various classes of riders. Closing the route which crosses the Machesna WSA, would eliminate riding opportunities for novice class riders. Other routes would still be available outside of the WSA, but only to more advanced riders.

Response 91.8 - Reference to the adjacent National Forest lands has been deleted since it is outside the scope of this EIS.

Response 91.9 - When viewed in comparison to other parcels of land in the same physiographic land province, the Yolla Bolly WSA does not have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation experiences, however these areas are not found to be superior or prominent when compared to similar areas. While solitude is available it was determined to be less than outstanding based on the diversity and quality of the opportunities within the WSA. Analysis of characteristics of the adjacent U.S.F.S. wilderness is outside the scope of the BLM's wilderness review process.

Letter 92 Northeast Californians for Wilderness

Response 92.1 - The document refers to multiple use in a generic sense to represent a broader spectrum of uses other than those permitted under wilderness designation. See definition of "multiple use" on page 6-3 in the Glossary.

Response 92.2 - This wilderness DEIS meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) including public involvement, format, and content. Additionally, the BLM and the Department of the Interior's Office of Environmental Project Review provides guidance and review to assure the adequacy of the wilderness EISs. The environmental consequences of the various alternative presented for each WSA focus on issues identified through a public scoping process to assure all environmental concerns were considered for inclusion in the analysis set forth in the document.

Information in the EIS is based on the best available information and professional judgement. The management actions presented in the EIS are projects of the types of activities that might occur and do not represent site-specific proposals.

Response 92.3 - There was no intent to "demean" the WSA through the use of the word barren. The topography and vegetation of the WSA, particularly the northern parcels certainly warrants an adjective which indicates that conditions are non-lush and sparse - commonly referred to as "barren".

Response 92.4 - The purpose of the EIS is to assess the environmental consequences of the individual proposed actions and alternatives. An EIS is not intended to present a detailed discussion of the rationales or justifications of each proposal. A Wilderness Study Report (WSR) and/or Record of Decision (ROD) will be prepared following the FEIS that will present the BLM's rationale for the individual proposals for each WSA.

Response 92.5 - See response 67.1

Response 92.6 - The contradiction has been corrected. The proposed action recommends for designation all of the parcels considered quality bighorn sheep habitat to be maintained for future use. The past occasional use made by bighorns on the Eagle and Emerson parcels does not warrant wilderness designation.

Response 92.7 - The domestic sheep grazing within the WSA occurs on the Van Riper and Barber parcels. These parcels are not part of the past or future bighorn habitat. The domestic sheep use has occurred for many years and is grandfathered under the Wilderness Act. Designation of the parcels as wilderness would have no affect on the sheep grazing that presently occurs on the two parcels.

In 1988 a complete die-off of the bighorn sheep herd occurred. The WSA included portions of the herd's range. Although the die-off is suspected to be related to contagious disease transmitted by domestic livestock, livestock grazing on the BLM parcels that comprise this WSA is not related to the die-off of the bighorn herd.

Letter 93 J. Ehrlich

Response 93.1 - The Yolla Bolly WSA has no merchantable timber. The area consists of mostly chaparral, with scattered oak and digger pine. There are no special features or outstanding wilderness characteristics that would complement the Yolla Bolly-Middle Bel Wilderness. The recommendations are based on the wilderness quality of the area, not its presence or lack of harvest timber.

Letter 96 J.A. Ferrara

Response 96.1 - This wilderness DEIS meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) including public involvement, format, and content. Additionally, the BLM and the Department of the Interior's Office of Environmental Project Review provide guidance and review to assure the adequacy of the wilderness EISs. The environmental consequences of the various alternatives presented for each WSA focus on issues identified through a public scoping process to assure all environmental concerns were considered for inclusion in the analysis set forth in the document.

Response 96.2 - Timber harvest in the Big Butte area has been primarily on private lands, with mitigation requirements monitored by the State of California. Any timber harvest on land administered by BLM is carefully controlled by mitigation requirements in SYU 13. Road building standard preclude significant environmental degradation.

Grazing within the WSA total 50-100 AUMs, depending on climatological conditions and resultant forage production. While many of these lands were regularly burned in the early part of this century, there has been no recent burning.

Letter 102 Brian C. Spence

Response 102.1 - See response 1.1

Letter 105 Environmental Protection Agency

Response 105.1 - Wilderness designation does not necessarily provide better protection for air quality and/or water quality. Although precluding certain uses may in some instances have a beneficial effect on these as well as other resources, other management practices can be equally effective. Additionally, in a situation where the quality of these resources has been degraded as a result of natural or human initiated actions, rehabilitation efforts may be limited or precluded under wilderness designation.

Response 105.2 - For each alternative concerning each WSA, management actions were anticipated based on reasonable planning projections. As described in the DEIS, there are no projected activities or significant changes in the current level of use that would result in potential degradation of water quality and/or riparian habitat.

Response 105.3 - BLM is participating in the State Water Resources Control Board's process to inventory non-point pollution sources and in developing the State wide strategy to address non-point problems. BLM will implement measures to address non-point source problems through management plans and activity plans that identify water quality issues. Control measures will be established through mitigations, stipulations or by including standard operating procedures in proposed actions. Best Management Practices for water quality are thereby incorporated into BLM activities and reviewed by the Regional Water Control Boards.

Letter 106

Response 106.1 - The document incorporates this change

Response 106.2 - The document incorporates this change

Response 106.3 - The Los Padres National Forest has verified this statement.

LIST OF PREPARERS

SUSANVILLE DISTRICT: SOUTH WARNER CONTIGUOUS WSA

Roger Farschon, Susanville District Team Leader
Position: Wildlife Biologist
Education: B.S. Conservation of Nature Resources, UC Berkeley
M.S. Range Management, UC Davis
Experience: Range Conservationist - 2 years
Wildlife Biologist - 7 years

Rick Cooper
Position: Range Conservationist
Education: B.S. Range Management, Humboldt State University
Experience: Range Conservationist - 9 years

Hugh Bunten
Position: Archaeologist
Education: B.A. Anthropology, Portland State University
Experience: Archaeologist - 16 years

Joe McFarlan
Position: Geologist
Education: B.A. Geology, Humboldt State University
Experience: Geologist - 12 years

CARSON CITY DISTRICT, NEVADA: CARSON ICEBERG WSA

Stephen Weiss, Carson City District Team Leader
Position: Outdoor Recreation Planner, Walker
Resource Area
Education: B.S. Resource Conservation
Experience: Forestry Aid and Technician - 1 year, Forest Service
Park Ranger - 1 year, National Park Service
Outdoor Recreation Planner - 7 years
Environmental Protection Specialist/
Public Affairs Officer - 6 years, BLM

Ronald K. Buder
Position: Geologist
Education: B.S. Geology/Mining, University of Idaho
Experience: Soil Scientist - 15 years, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Surface Protection Specialist - 7 years, BLM
Geologist - 6 years, BLM

Dan Delany
Position: Wildlife Management Biologist
Education: B.S. Wildlife Management and major in Range Management,
Oregon State University
Experience: Forestry Technician - 1 year, Forest Service
Soil Conservation Tech - 1 year, Soil Conservation Service
Range Technician - 1 year, BLM
Wildlife Biologist - 10 years, BLM

James de Laureal
Position: Soil Scientist
Education: B.S. Agriculture/Agronomy, Univ. of Southwestern Louisiana
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Soil Scientist - 7 years, BLM

Preparers

Sid Houpt

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Michael McGinty

Position: Forester
Education: B.S. Forest Management, University of Wisconsin
Experience: Forester - 11 years, Forest Service and BLM

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Ronald Salz, Program Assistant

Planning and Environmental Coordination Staff

Sheri Olendorff, Management Assistant

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

ACRONYMS

ACEC - Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ASBI - Area of Special Biological Importance
BLM - Bureau of Land Management
CDF&G - California Department of Fish and Game
CRMP - Cultural Resource Management Plan
EIS - Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA - Federal Land Policy and Management Act
MFP - Management Framework Plan
NCLWMA - National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area
NWPS - National Wilderness Preservation System
ORV - Off-Road Vehicle
RMP - Resource Management Plan
SYU - Sustained Yield Unit
USFS - United States Forest Service
WMP - Wilderness Management Policy
WSA - Wilderness Study Area

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM): The amount of forage required to sustain the equivalent of one cow or five sheep for one month.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

CHERRYSTEM: A boundary configuration in which the boundary of a wilderness study area or proposed wilderness is drawn around a dead-end road or other linear feature so as to exclude that road or feature from the wilderness study area or proposed wilderness.

CHERRYSTEM ROAD: A dead-end road excluded from wilderness study by means of a cherrystem.

COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND: All forestland that is capable of yielding at least 20 cubic feet of wood per acre per year of commercial coniferous tree species.

CONTIGUOUS: Lands or legal subdivisions having a common boundary; lands having only a common corner are not contiguous.

DISCOVERY: A term used in connection with mining claims. As stated in legal ruling which has been upheld in many later decisions, it is "where minerals have been found and the evidence is of such a character that a person of ordinary prudence would be justified in the further expenditure of his labor and means, with a reasonable prospect of success, in developing a valuable mine. . . ."

ECOSYSTEM: A complex self-sustaining natural system which includes living and nonliving components of the environment and the interactions that bind them together. Its functioning involves the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as identified in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

FLPMA: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579, 90 Stat. 2743,43 USC 1701).

FORAGE: All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals. It may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

HABITAT: All elements of an organism's environment needed to complete its life cycle through reproduction, including but not limited to food, cover, water, and living space in the amounts, qualities, and locations which the organism requires to complete its life cycle.

IMPACT: The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint of an activity.

IMPAIR: To diminish in value or excellence.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING OPERATIONS: Those operations under permit where the primary purpose is the grazing of livestock for the production of food and fiber. Includes pack and saddle stock used in conjunction with such operations.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN (MFP): The Bureau's basic planning decision document prior to the adoption of a new planning process in 1979, in which the decision document is a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

MFP AMENDMENT: An amendment to a Management Framework Plan is initiated by the need to consider monitoring and evaluation findings, new data, new or revised policy, a change in circumstances, or an applicant's proposed action which may result in a significant change in a portion of the approved plan.

MINERAL ENTRY: The right to enter the public lands (under the administration of the BLM) to search for minerals and to claim or lease such minerals under the mining and mineral leasing laws and regulations.

MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT: Any machine activated by nonliving power source except small battery-powered handcarried devices such as flashlights, shavers, Geiger counters, and cameras. Also Mechanized Equipment.

MOTOR VEHICLE: Any vehicle which is self-propelled or any vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from batteries.

MULTIPLE RESOURCE VALUES AND USES: The present and potential uses of the various resources administered through multiple use management on the public lands and any public values associated with such uses.

MULTIPLE USE: "...the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some lands for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that take into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output." (From section 103, FLPMA.)

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE LAND AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (NCLWMAs): Established by Public Land Orders in the early 1960s, these lands were withdrawn from disposal under the nonmineral public land laws, in order to protect significant or unique wildlife values. These areas are managed under cooperative agreements between BLM and the California Department of Fish and Game.

NATURALNESS: Refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (From section 2(c), Wilderness Act.)

NONSUITABLE FOR PRESERVATION AS WILDERNESS: Refers to a recommendation that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act but have been found not to be appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other terrain.

OUTSTANDING: 1. Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous; prominent. 2. Superior to others of its kind; distinguished; excellent.

PATENTED MINING CLAIM: A claim on which title has passed from the Federal Government to the mining claimant under the mining laws.

PLANNING AREA: The area for which resource management plans are prepared and maintained. In most instances, it is the same as the resource area, which is a geographic portion of a BLM district, under supervision of an area manager.

PLANNING CRITERIA: The factors used to guide development of the resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issues previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, the analysis of the management situation, the design and formulation of alternatives, the estimation of the effects of alternatives, the evaluation of alternatives, and the selection of the preferred alternative.

PRE-FLPMA: Before October 21, 1976, the date of approval of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

PRELIMINARY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION: Refers to a wilderness recommendation at any stage prior to the time when the Secretary of the Interior reports his recommendation to the President. Until the Secretary acts, the recommendation is "preliminary" because it is subject to change during administrative review.

PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION: Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.

PUBLIC LANDS: For the purpose of the wilderness review program, any lands and interest in lands owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

1. Lands where the United States owns the minerals but the surface is not Federally owned.
2. Lands being held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.
3. Lands tentatively approved for State selection in Alaska.
4. Lands on the Outer Continental Shelf.
5. Oregon and California grant (O & C) lands that are managed for commercial timber production.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of the forage resource by domestic livestock, such as fences, line cabins, water lines, and stock tanks.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP): The basic decision document of BLM's resource management planning process, used to establish allocation and coordination among uses for the various resources within a Resource Area. An RMP is a "land-use plan" prescribed by Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. RMP regulations appear at 43 CFR 1601. (Refer to definition of Management Framework Plan.)

RIPARIAN: Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams or around springs.

ROAD: A vehicle route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

SOLITUDE: 1. The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation.
2. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place.

SUBSTANTIALLY UNNOTICEABLE: Refers to something that either is so insignificant as to be only a very minor feature of the overall area or is not distinctly recognizable by the average visitor as being manmade or man-caused because of age, weathering, or biological change. An example of the first would be a few minor dams or abandoned mine buildings that are widely scattered over a large area, so that they are an inconspicuous part of the scene. Serious intrusions of this kind, or many of them, may preclude inclusion of the land in a wilderness study area. An example of the second would be an old juniper control project that has grown up to a natural appearance, the old fallen trees largely decomposed.

SUITABILITY: As used in the Wilderness Act and in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, refers to a recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture that certain Federal lands satisfy the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act and have been found appropriate for designation as wilderness on the basis of an analysis of the existing and potential uses of the land.

SUPPLEMENTAL VALUES: Values that may be present in an area under consideration for wilderness, such as ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. They are not required for wilderness designation, but their presence will enhance an area's wilderness quality.

VALID MINING CLAIM: A mining claim on which a discovery has been made (See "Discovery.")

WATERSHED: The area drained by a principal river or stream system.

WAY/PRIMITIVE VEHICLE ROUTES: A vehicle route which has not been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use.

WILDERNESS: The following definition as contained in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891): A wilderness in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

WILDERNESS AREA: An area formally designated by Act of Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS: See "Wilderness."

WILDERNESS INVENTORY: An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under section 603(a) of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA).

WILDERNESS MANAGEABILITY: The capability of an area to be effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT: The management of human use and influence on lands which have been designated by Act of Congress as wilderness areas.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM: Term used to describe all wilderness activities of the Bureau of Land Management including identification, management, and administrative functions.

WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS: A recommendation by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, or the President, with respect to an area's suitability or unsuitability for preservation as wilderness.

WILDERNESS REPORTING: The process of preparing the reports containing wilderness recommendations on wilderness study areas and transmitting those reports to the Secretary of the Interior, the President, and Congress.

WILDERNESS REVIEW: The term used to cover the entire wilderness inventory, study, and reporting phases of the wilderness program of the Bureau of Land Management.

WILDERNESS STUDY: The process which specifies how each wilderness study area must be studied through the BLM resource management planning system, analyzing all resources, values and uses within the WSA to determine whether the area will be recommended as suitable or unsuitable for wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in section 603 of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDERNESS VALUES: See "Wilderness."

WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENTS: Any structural or nonstructural improvements which directly affect or support the use of water, food, or shelter by wildlife, such as guzzlers, water lines, or fences.

WITHDRAWAL: Removal, or withholding, of public lands by statute, or Secretarial order, from operation of some or all of the public land laws ("surface," mining and/or mineral leasing laws).

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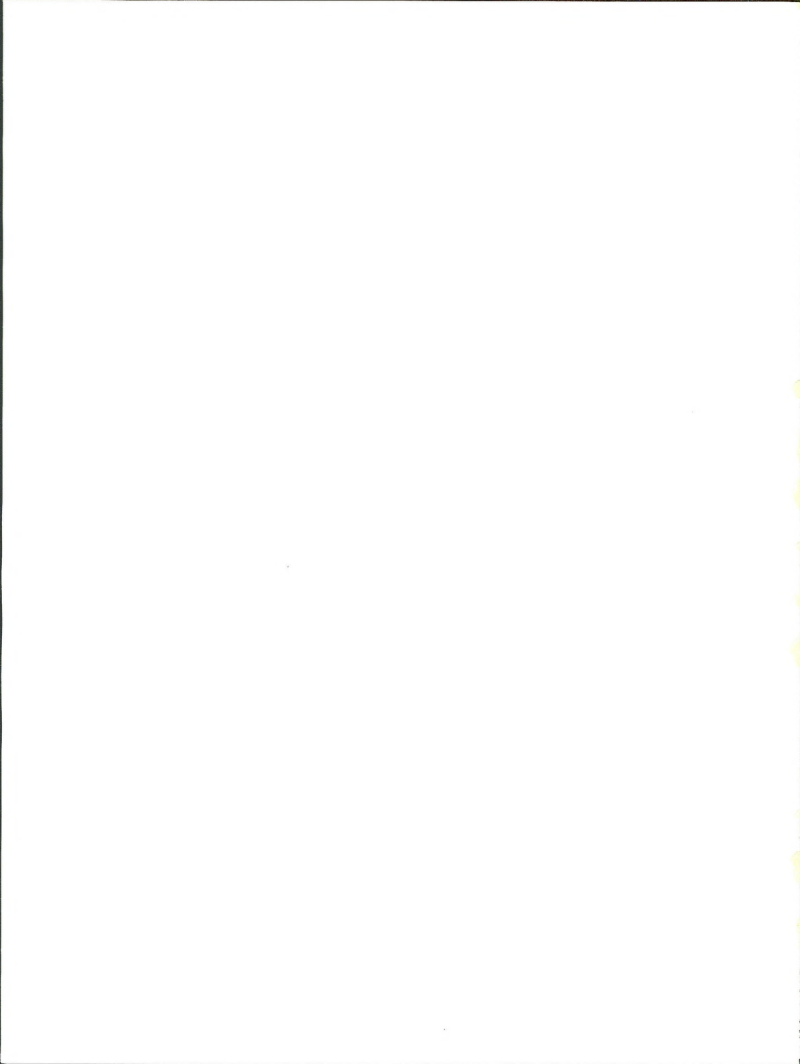
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
2800 COTTAGE WAY
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

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